In her transcontinental novel, an eleven-year-old encounters misfits who are all too real.

Autumn FICTION ROUND-UP, pages 21-31
#readlocalbc

Anvil Press
Arsenal Pulp Press
Caitlin Press
Douglas & McIntyre
Greystone Books
Harbour Publishing
Heritage House Publishing
McKellar & Martin Publishing
New Star Books
Oolichan Books
Orca Book Publishers
Rocky Mountain Books
Ronsdale Press
Royal BC Museum
Talonbooks
TouchWood Editions
Theftus Books
Tradewind Books
UBC Press

BE BOOK AWARE

Now in its second year, the Association of Book Publishers of BC is proud to present Read Local BC, a project to celebrate the extraordinary depth of BC publishing. From October 28 – November 7, look out for events in bookstores and libraries, and steer clear of grizzlies protecting their favourite reads!

OCTOBER 28 – NOVEMBER 7, 2016

READ LOCAL • BUY LOCAL • THINK GLOBAL
Norma Charles

Jennifer Manuel
The Heaviness of Things
That Float (D&M $22.95)

Barrie Farrell
Boats in My Blood (Harbour $24.95)

J.L. Granatstein
The Weight of Command: Voices of Canada’s Second World War Generals and Those Who Knew Them (UBC Press $34.95)

Derek von Essen & Phil Saunders
No Flash Please! Underground Music in Toronto 1987-92 (April Press $28)

Fraser Nixon
Straight to the Head (Arsenal Pulp Press $17.95)

Darcy Matheson
Greening Your Pet Care: Reduce Your Animal’s Environmental Impact (Self-Counsel Press $14.95)

Ruth Daniell
Associate Editor:

Editor/Production:

Publisher/Writer:

British Columbia Lullaby (Sandhill Book Marketing $12.95)

Norma Charles

Rika Ruebsaat

Richard Cannings

James Hoggan
I’m Right and You’re an Idiot: The Toxic Effects of the State of Public Discourse and How to Clean it Up (New Society $19.95)

Robin Stevenson
Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community (Caitlin Press $24.95)

Lynn McCarron
BC BookWorld, 3516 W. 13th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6R 2S3
Tel/Fax: 604-736-4011
Email: bookworld@telus.net
Annual subscription: $25

BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 2016
Vol. 30 No. 3

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Barrie Farrell

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Ruth Daniell

Norma Charles

Jon Bartlett & Rika Ruebsaat

Richard Cannings, Tom Aversa & Hal Opperman

Bev Sellers

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

Forget kale.

Yes, gourmands, it’s time to embrace a new trend—sea vegetables. Specifically kelp. And who better to give you kelp-help than a man who has had a genus of kelp named after him?

Marine botanist Louis Druehl, who lives south of Long Beach at Bamfield, has revised and expanded his guide, Pacific Seaweeds (Harbour $28.95), co-written with Bridgette E. Clarkson, as the authoritative guide to over 100 common species of seaweeds in the Pacific Northwest. So we asked Louis for his Top Ten Things You Don’t Know About Kelp. This way, when you chew down on sea vegetables at a high-end restaurant, you can be more knowledgeable than the waiter.

LOUIS DRUEHL AND HIS WIFE RAEE OPERATE Canadian Kelp Resources Ltd., a company that produces a line of sea vegetables (Barkley Sound Kelp). A kelp genus called Druehli was named after him, but when an older name re-surfaced, the accreditation had to be dropped. Subsequently a kelp species restricted to tidal Gwaii was namedSaccharina druehlii. The Japanese have long eaten kelp.


1. The female kelp produces a perfume that attracts the sperm. This substance smells like gin.
2. Kelp is the source of umami, a flavour enhancer. The new scientific discipline of gastrophysics was partly started to understand “savory taste,” one of the five basic tastes (including sweetness, sourness, bitterness, and saltiness).
3. The brown pigment of kelp, fucocyanin, is a strong antioxidant.
4. The slime of kelp, fucoidan, is thought to hold off the diseases associated with aging (hypertension, diabetes, stroke, etc.).
5. Iodine, as an element, was first discovered in kelp. The concentration of iodine in kelp is up to 20,000 greater than in seawater.
6. The San Francisco Philharmonic featured kelp horns on one occasion.
7. In case of nuclear war or meltdown of a nuclear plant, eat some kelp and load up your thyroid gland with the good cold iodine in kelp is up to 20,000 greater than in seawater.
8. Kelp are not plants or animals but plantamimals. They are sessile and photosynthetic but when it comes to microscopic structure, egg and sperm sex and not synthetic but when it comes to microscopic structure, egg and sperm sex and not microscopic, egg and sperm sex and not polen and stigma sex, they are animals.
9. Kelp is considered an excellent source of biofuel. It can be easily grown, does not compete with corn and the like for valuable agricultural land. I call the potential alcohol derived from kelp, kelpanol.
10. Kelp brownies are substituted for coffee confections by matured hippies.

Reference:

*Norma Charles

Last Chance Island (Remsdale $11.95)

Jon Bartlett & Rika Ruebsaat


Richard Cannings, Tom Aversa & Hal Opperman


Bev Sellers

Price Paid: The Fight for First Nations Survival (Palom Books $19.95)

Heidi Waechltler

Heidi at the helm

Heidi Waechltler has returned to the West Coast to take over from Margaret Reynolds as the executive director of the Association of Book Publishers of B.C. She previously worked for McClelland & Stewart and Coach House Books. Reynolds worked tirelessly and effectively for 28 years, playing an essential role in the evolution of the most stable and efficient publishing community in Canada.
NEW BOOKS TO FALL ALL OVER

**A Perfect Eden**
Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island
Michael Layland
A compelling history of the earliest explorers to Vancouver Island, brought to life with illustrations, maps, and first-hand accounts.
*TouchWood Editions | $39.95 hc | $17.99 epub*

**Gold Rush Queen**
The Extraordinary Life of Nellie Cashman
Thora Kerr Billing
The story of Nellie Cashman (1865-1925), a well-loved miner, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.
*TouchWood Editions | $16.95 pb | $8.99 epub*

**Glorious Victorian Homes**
150 Years of Architectural History in British Columbia’s Capital
Nick Russell
A guide to Victoria’s most historically significant homes. Includes maps.
*TouchWood Editions | $24.95 hc | $13.99 pbk*

**Aqua Vitae**
A History of the Saloons and Hotel Bars of Victoria, 1851-1957
Glen A. Mefford
A popular history of Victoria’s drinking establishments in their heyday.
*TouchWood Editions | $19.95 pb | $13.99 epub*

**Surviving Logan**
Erik Bjornson and Cathi Shaw
A harrowing story of being trapped on the second-highest peak in North America, Mount Logan, during an extratropical cyclone.
*RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $29.95 | $19.99 ebook*

**Casting Back**
Sixty Years of Fishing and Writing
Peter McMillan
Classic fishing essays and reflections celebrating the thoughts, pleasures and adventures of a devoted angler and renowned storyteller.
*RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $35.95 | $22.99 ebook*

**A River Captured**
The Columbia River Treaty and Catastrophic Change
Eden Delany-Farrar
Explores the history of the Columbia River Treaty and its impact on the First Nations, Indigenous peoples, and politics of BC.
*RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $34.95 | $21.99 ebook*

**At Sea with the Marine Birds of the Raincoast**
Caroline Fox
An illustrated, personal narrative detailing the complex relationships between humans, marine birds and biodiversity.
*RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $35.95 | $22.99 ebook*

**The Valiant Nellie McClung**
Selected Writings by Canada’s Most Famous Suffragist
Barbara Smith and Nellie McClung
An accessible biography and selected editorials by McClung and light on Canada’s most famous activist for women’s rights.
*Heritage House | $19.95 | $12.99 ebook*

**Hard Knox**
Memoirs of the Edge of Canada
Jack Knox
An affectionately satirical look at Vancouver Island life by Victoria’s award-winning columnist, Jack Knox, with a foreword by Ian Ferguson.
*Heritage House | $19.95 | $12.99 ebook*

**Remembered in Bronze and Stone**
Canada’s Great War Memorial Statues
Alan Livingstone MacLeod
First World War memorials across Canada are the focus of this stunning tribute to the nation’s fallen soldiers.
*Heritage House | $24.95 | $15.99 ebook*

**Whale Child**
The Great Spirit Takes a Son
Carroll Simmonds
The latest story explores with vibrant images and tells of a young girl lost at sea who is returned to her village by a gentle gray whale.
*Heritage House | $19.95 | $12.99 ebook*
In April of 1975, after five years of civil war, Cambodia fell to the brutal regime of the communist Khmer Rouge. Democratic Kampuchea, as it was then called, was cut off from the world as it was then called, was cut off from the world as it was then called. In 1979, thousands of Cambodians were fleeing to the border of Thailand, escaping famine and the conflict between the Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese forces occupying the country. Humanitarian organizations poured in to the border areas, mounting one of the largest international relief operations of the twentieth century.

Democratic Kampuchea, as it was then called, was cut off from the world as it was then called, was cut off from the world as it was then called. The death toll reached close to two million people, one quarter of the country’s population. By 1979, thousands of Cambodians were fleeing to the border of Thailand, escaping famine and the conflict between the Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese forces occupying the country. Humanitarian organizations poured in to the border areas, mounting one of the largest international relief operations of the twentieth century.

Without hesitation, B.C. nurse Elaine Harvey signed up with the Canadian Red Cross for service on the war-torn Cambodian border, arriving for a six-month tour of nursing duty in 1980. And that’s how she came to write her memoir, Encounters on the Front Line, Cambodia: A Memoir (Promontory $19.99).

“Face to face with the aftermath of genocide, famine, torture and terror, I met a people as gracious as the lotus blooming in muddy waters,” she writes. “…Cambodia was my teacher; my people say ‘I am fine, sok sabay, de-end in flesh, as soft as the fragrance of jasmine, and as perplexing as the beauty of a boy named Litat at a refugee camp called Nong Samet on the Thai-Cambodian border in 1980.”

Elaine Harvey tends to
Price Paid
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BEV SELLARS
Price Paid untangles truth from some of the myths about First Nations and addresses misconceptions still widely believed today.
978-0-88922-972-3 · $19.95 · 240 pages · Non-fiction

U Girl
MEREDITH QUARTERMAIN
Award-winning author Meredith Quartermain’s second novel and seventh book, U Girl, is a coming-of-age story set in Vancouver in 1972, a city crossed between love-in hip and forest-corp square.
978-1-77201-040-4 · $19.95 · 272 pages · Fiction

The Days
M.A.C. FARRANT
Let yourself be excited and delighted. Farrant’s artfully spare stories – averaging a couple of paragraphs each – offer enough food for thought (and mood) to keep you going for months.
978-1-77201-004-7 · $14.95 · 128 pages · Fiction

Reading Sveva
DAPHNE MARLATT
Reading Sveva is award-winning author Daphne Marlatt’s response to the life and paintings of Sveva Caetani, an Italian émigré who grew up in Vernon, B.C. and struggled to make her art her life.
978-1-77201-016-9 · $19.95 · 96 pages · Poetry

Once in Blockadia
STEPHEN COLLIS
Hailed as ‘the most dangerous poet in Canada,’ Stephen Collis returns to the commons and his ongoing argument with Wordsworth, bringing protest, resistance, and poetry together at long last.
978-1-77201-015-2 · $18.95 · 144 pages · Poetry

for love and autonomy
ANAHITA JAMALI RAD
Anahita Jamali Rad deals with the stuff of everyday life: work and sex, friendship and love. Her critical attention to the structure of these social relations creates a poetics of trial and failure, questioning the very “culture” responsible for its making as she forges a way for the possibility of radical resistance in language.
978-1-77201-017-6 · $16.95 · 96 pages · Poetry

Friendly + Fire
DANIELLE LAFRANCHE
Friendly + Fire is poetry and prose that provokes as it unravels all the ways that military violence trickles into daily life. These poems show us how a friend turns into a foe when the body is controlled by the invasive logic of weapons, automation, and beaureaucracy.
978-1-77201-018-3 · $17.95 · 112 pages · Poetry

Entering Time
The Fungus Man Platters of Charles Edenshaw
COLIN BROWNE
Every good story is an origin story – and a mystery story. In Entering Time: The Fungus Man Platters of Charles Edenshaw, Browne ranges through the fields of art history, literature, ethnology, and myth to discover a parallel history of modernism within one of the world’s most subtle and sophisticated artistic and literary cultures.
978-1-77201-039-8 · $17.95 · 128 pages · Non-fiction

Scree (paperback)
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 – most of which is out of print. This collection allows readers to rediscover Wah’s groundbreaking work.
978-0-88922-948-8 · $29.95 · 648 pages · Poetry

The Envelope
VITTORIO ROSSI
This comedy-drama skewers the film world when a playwright must choose between accepting government funds to turn his play into a Canadian feature film, or accept an American producer’s offer of total artistic control and less money. Will Moretti stand firm in his artistic integrity or take the cash and roll?
978-1-77201-031-2 · $17.95 · 112 pages · Drama

In A Blue Moon
LUCIA FRANGIONE
When Frankie’s dad dies, her mom, Ava, can’t afford to live in the city anymore. The only asset they’re left with is a farmhouse and twenty acres outside of town. Ava decides to move there and start an Ayurveda clinic on the property, providing her precocious and grieving daughter a new start. The only problem is a squatter who won’t leave.
978-1-77201-035-0 · $17.95 · 128 pages · Drama

You Will Remember Me
FRANCOIS ARCHAMBAULT
TRANSLATED BY BOBBY THEODORE
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978-1-77201-019-0 · $17.95 · 112 pages · Drama

Yours Forever, Marie-Lou
MICHEL TREMBLAY
TRANSLATED BY LINDA GABORIAU
Carmen returns home to convince Marie-Lou, her sister, to end ten years of mourning the death of their parents. Leopold and Marie-Louise. Past and present mingle as the two daughters struggle to reconcile events preceding the fatal car crash. Cast of 3 women and 1 man.
978-1-77201-023-7 · $16.95 · 96 pages · Drama

Price Paid
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Talonbooks
www.talonbooks.com

Talonbooks
Fall 2016
The office and warehouse of one of B.C.’s most venerable publishing imprints, Sono Nis Press, were completely destroyed by a West Kootenay fire on August 4.

Diane Morriss’ family-owned Sono Nis Press operates from Winlaw, dealing with insurance and waiting for the office phone, fax and internet to be moved to our little house near the office where we were internet and computer free by choice.

“We’re also trying to salvage what we can from the building although not a single book remains. Sadly all of the Morriss Printing archives were lost in the fire.”

Diane Morriss is the granddaughter of book printer Charles Morriss who was born in Winnipeg in 1907. He moved with his family to Victoria in 1910. At 14, Charles Morriss began to apprentice in a printer’s shop. He worked in countless printing shops before serving in World War II. Thereafter he opened Morriss Printing on Victoria’s Fort Street.

Morriss Printing in Victoria and Mitchell Press in Vancouver became the two leading producers of books in B.C. prior to the rise of five publishing imprints that formed the Association of Book Publishers of B.C. in the early 1970s. The first book printed by Morriss Printing was Who’s Who in British Columbia, in 1953. The record of the hundreds of books produced by Morriss Printing has now been lost.

Dick Morriss learned the printing trade and semi-reluctantly acquired Sono Nis Press in 1976. That odd name is derived from a character named Sono in the first book published by the press in 1968, Man in the Glass Octopus, by founder J. Michael Yates. Sono in modern Italian means “are not.”

Diane Morriss was traveling with one of her authors, Sylvia Olsen, in Vermont and New Hampshire, when she received the news of the fire. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. Sono Nis has more than 150 titles in print.

The offices of yet another of B.C.’s oldest publishing imprints, New Star Books, was firebombed on March 7, 2012.

Vancouver police investigated an arson attempt at Mauer's home after a Molotov cocktail was thrown onto his front porch at 4 a.m. on October 10, 2014 while he slept inside. This incident was the fifth attack on New Star or Mauer since 2012.

Fiery, self-centred and charismatic, Mel Hurtig spent his final ten years in B.C. largely under the radar.

A redent Canadian nationalist and formerly prominent Western Canadian book publisher and bookseller Mel Hurtig lived in Vancouver for ten years from 2006 until his death on August 3, 2016.

He published the ground-breaking Canadian Encyclopedia when he operated Hurtig Publishing from Edmonton, having started in the book trade as one of the country’s foremost independent bookstore owners, opening the first of his three outlets in 1956. He sold the store in 1970 to start his own imprint, Hurtig Publishers, in 1980.

Launched in 1985 at an estimated (by Hurtig) cost of $12 million, The Canadian Encyclopedia was a massive and risky project that none of the larger publishers in Canada dared to undertake.
Pearson became her student companion, moving in with Carr at age fourteen. Carr nicknamed her Baboo; she called the painter Mom. For more than two decades they were like a mother and daughter, sharing the same roof for the better part of a decade. Later, in 1954, after Pearson had married and moved east, she published Emily Carr As I Knew Her (Touchwood $19.95) to recall idyllic picnics and painting trips with Carr, caring for their beloved pets, and lounging for hours in Beacon Hill Park.

As recounted in the newly reprinted memoir, Pearson buried a box of Carr’s treasures in Beacon Hill Park, as instructed, in 1942, its contents have still yet to be recovered.

“She was like a fairy godmother,” wrote Pearson, “complete with animals.”

With a foreword by Robert Amos, the reprint claims to reveal Emily Carr’s personality more fully than any other source.

COINCIDENTALLY, COLIN BROWNE HAS examined another little-known Emily Carr acquaintance—recalling how the Parisian surrealist painter Wolfgang Paalen met Carr in 1939 when she was 67, living at 316 Beckley Street in Victoria.

“I can’t get the surrealist point of view,” Carr confided in a letter to a friend, “most of their subjects revolt me.”

Paalen nevertheless saw similarities between Carr’s paintings and surrealism. Influenced by Carr and already keenly interested in the art of indigenous peoples of North America, Paalen left Victoria to further pursue the integration of “the enormous treasure of Amerindian forms into the consciousness of modern art.”

It’s all investigated in Browne’s I Had An Interesting French Artist To See Me This Summer: Emily Carr and Wolfgang Paalen in British Columbia, (Figure1 $24.95), a book-length catalogue for a new exhibit of the same name at the Vancouver Art Gallery (July 1 to November 13). 978-1-927958-78-0

Two obscure friendships are brought to light.

Emily Carr was still mostly unknown in 1916 when she met seven-year-old Carol Pearson—arguably the love of her life. Pearson became her student companion, moving in with Carr at age fourteen. Carr nicknamed her Baboo; she called the painter Mom. For more than two decades they were like a mother and daughter, sharing the same roof for the better part of a decade. Later, in 1954, after Pearson had married and moved east, she published Emily Carr As I Knew Her (Touchwood $19.95) to recall idyllic picnics and painting trips with Carr, caring for their beloved pets, and lounging for hours in Beacon Hill Park.

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Also in 2015, Laurie Carter published the first of her three-part series on Emily Carr’s travels in B.C., Emily Carr’s B.C. (Book One): Vancouver Island (Little White $24.95) that covers Carr’s life and travels from Victoria to Quatsino Sound. Now Emily Carr’s B.C. (Book Two): Northern B.C. & Haida Gwaii (Little White $24.95) explores Carr’s expeditions to the Skeena and Naas Rivers of Northern B.C. and the islands of Haida Gwaii.

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MARTIN WEST
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PETER BABIKAK
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Cultural Criticism • 978-1-77214-050-7 • $20

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ALBAN GOULDEN
As If is a collection of stories that—as its title suggests—points at an indubitable truth: all literature is speculative. These stories rail against the industrial and digital mechanisms of our age and, in the great fabulist tradition, call upon their characters to take action.
Stories • 978-1-77214-048-4 • $18

Chalk
DOUG DIAZCUK
“You” and L, a mysterious third gender runaway, hit the road on a mission to find the meaning of life. Traveling by plane, bus and car, You runs into trouble with the cops, mourns a family tragedy, comes to terms with a broken heart, and discovers that all roads lead back to where You started—in the flowers drawn by two little girls in coloured chalk on the sidewalk.
Novella • 978-1-77214-051-4 • $16

Jettison
NATHANIEL G. MOORE
Nathaniel G. Moore follows up his 2014 ReLit Award win for Savage with a diverse debut collection of short fiction—Jettison, featuring stories which dangle somewhere between horror and romance. Jettison is an all-you-can-eat buffet of literary invention: you’ll be so glad you got an invite.
Stories • 978-1-77214-047-7 • $20
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makes water, air and food have to be protected. Covenants need to be put on the farm premises, they read an eviction notice to the floating fish farms, accompanied by Alexandra Morton. After being advised they were not allowed to stand on the floating fish farm premises, they read an eviction notice to the fish farm staff.

According to Morton, last spring up to 40% of the young salmon leaving their territory were killed by sea lice from Cermaq and Marine Harvest salmon farms. Hence the Norwegian/Japanese salmon farming operation was told to vacate their territory.

For a complete list of books by Alexandra Morton see her entry on ABCBookWorld.com.
Spit that Out!
The Overly Informed Parent's Guide to Raising Healthy Kids in the Age of Environmental Guilt
PAIGE WOLF
Foreword by ALYSIA REINER
Asbestos in crayons and lead paint on toy cars?! Eco-chic mom Paige Wolf helps overloaded parents navigate today's toxic world.

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JOHN MICHAEL GREER
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DMITRY ORLOV
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N

WHEN EMPATHY INTERVENTED

How Moby Doll changed the way we see one of nature’s most intimidating mammals.

Mark Leiren-Young

The Killer Whale Who Changed the World

BY JAIDEN DEMBO

THE KILLER WHALE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Mark Leiren-Young

The Killer Whale Who Changed the World

BY JAIDEN DEMBO

The Vancouver Public Aquarium’s proposed expansion in 1963. Commissioned to kill a killer whale, sculptor Samuel Burich harpooned and shot at one but it did not die.

In The Killer Whale Who Changed the World, Leiren-Young recalls there was a moment when the Vancouver Public Aquarium’s team could have killed the orca but empathy intervened. Leading the orca back to Vancouver like a dog on a leash, the team nicknamed it Hound Dog. Probably after the Elvis Presley song. Once in Vancouver the only place they could keep it was the Burrard Yarrows Dry Dock. On the one day the public was allowed to see the whale, crowds flocked to see the ferocious beast and soon realized that this apex predator was not the monster they had originally thought it to be.

The captors mistakenly decided the orca was female. Renamed Moby Doll, he/she galvanized the attention of the world. When he/she was eventually moved to a pen at Jericho, some local citizens had sung back to him and whistled to mimic his chirps and squeals.

The city of Vancouver and the world mourned the whale’s death. Leiren-Young recounts how Moby Doll’s death sparked a desire to learn more about these creatures and a global desire to favour conservation over killing.

Equally witty and entertaining as it is informative, The Killer Whale Who Changed the World is a captivating captivity story of adventure, heart-warming moments between mammals, and ultimately heartbreak. An array of newspaper articles, reports and anecdotes from important figures of the time are supplied to help take the reader back in time.

Moby Doll’s story changed the way we see these animals forever. An obituary in The Times of London stated, “the widespread publicity—some of it the first positive press ever about killer whales—marked the beginning of an important change in the public attitude toward the species.”

This is an important B.C. story and publisher Rob Sanders (in partnership with the David Suzuki Institute) was right to ask Leiren-Young for a book after watching him receive a Best Feature Story prize at the 2014 Jack Webster Awards for his documentary called Moby Doll: The Whale that Changed the World that aired on CBC Radio’s Ideas. He also wrote an article called Moby Doll for The Walrus.

A versatile playwright, critic, documentary filmmaker and humourist, the Leacock Medal winning Mark Leiren-Young is currently working on a feature-length film on the subject of Moby Doll. The film, like this book, will be one more step towards a greater understanding of these creatures in the hope that whaling on the planet will finally be ended and the slaughter of these noble animals will only be a distant memory. 877-1-771-64-193-7

Jaiden Dembo is an associate editor of BC BookWorld.
R

Asked on the prairies and in the Okanagan, Donna Macdonald, born in 1946, was in love in 1972—with the town of Nelson—and then became a technician for the Forest Service.

That led to forestry work in Mozambique with her partner and daughter, as well as being a co-founder of the Nelson and District Women’s Centre, working for an MP and an MLA, editing a weekly newspaper and freelancing. In 1988 she ran for Nelson City council and began her longest job ever—19 years as a Nelson City councillor—until December of 2014.

Now her memoir offers stories and reflections that explore both the mechanisms of local government and the humanity of that work.

As Hillary Clinton tries to become the first female president of the United States, here’s an excerpt from Surviving City Hall (Nightwood $22.95) about a memorable conversation Donna Macdonald had with her mother when Macdonald decided to run for mayor of Nelson.

Not getting Mum’s vote

The first time I considered running for mayor, I had driven to the Okanagan to visit my mother in the care home where she lived. Whispering Pines was working family hours, now modified to house the frail elderly. I thought maybe Blossoming Apples or Chattering Cherries might have been more like an interrogation. But sometimes she was sharp as a pine needle. As she lay in her bed that day, I tried to make more interesting conversation. “Guess what, Mum? I’m going to run for mayor.”

“Why would you run for mayor?” Her question was not lovingly and gently put, but more like an interrogation.

“Well, the mayor we’ve got right now has got everybody fighting with everybody else. We need a different style, a different kind of mayor.”

“But why would you run for mayor?” Uh oh, I thought, here comes the repetition.

“Well, you know, I’ve been on council for eight years now, and I think I could do a good job as mayor. Or at least way better than he has.”

“But why would you run for mayor?” she persevered. “That’s a man’s job.” Oh, well, no approval or encouragement forthcoming here. I can understand how this generally life-frustrating eighty-year-old woman would say and believe this. It turns out, however, she’s far from alone.

“I’m not saying I lost two mayoral elections just because I didn’t have the right gentilias (and the cultural training that goes with them) and if things had been different (for example, three-piece suits hanging in my closet), I would have been mayor. I can’t say for sure. But I get some hints. My phone canvassers were hearing this:

Well, she’s a nice person and all, and she works hard, but I’m not sure she’s tough enough. She’s a really good councillor, but I think it takes a man to be mayor.

A businessman.”

Donna Macdonald was a forestry advisor in Mozambique prior to becoming a city councillor in Nelson.

Why women run uphill

Donna Macdonald recalls her bid to be elected mayor.

Donna Macdonald: “Being a city councillor is like doing a dozen different jobs.”

Well, she’s a nice person and all, and she works hard, but I’m not sure she’s tough enough. She’s a really good councillor, but I think it takes a man to be mayor. A businessman.”

You are ‘on’ every hour of every day. People stop to talk, ask questions or complain at the grocery store, at the hairdresser or at the theatre. It is hard not to be on the defensive and to really listen.

I think this book should be required reading for every aspiring councillor, mayor or regional director, because it is precisely what you can expect.

“For those who do not plan to run for office, it is a very interesting glimpse into how municipalities work and why things are done the way they are.”

Donna Macdonald has received the 2016 Richard Carver Award for Emerging Writers for Surviving City Hall, sharing the award with Koote-nay Bay novelist Alanda Greene. It’s sponsored by the Nelson and District Arts Council and the Elephant Mountain Literary Festival.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Seven prize categories for fiction, poetry, children, illustrated, non-fiction, regional, and booksellers’ choice. Submission deadline is December 1, 2016.

Nominations open for lifetime achievement award, The Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence. Submission deadline is January 31, 2017.
NE OF THE MORE UNUSUAL BOOKS TO BE FEATURED AT THIS year’s Cherie Smith JCC Jewish Book Festival, Nov. 27 – Dec. 1, will be Sima Elizabeth Shefrin’s self-illustrated *The Embroidered Cancer Comic* (UBC Press $14.95) because it graphically recounts her daily life with her husband, musician Bob Bossin, after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2011.

“Every time something made us laugh,” she says, “one of us would say, ‘That goes in the comic.’ As it turns out, a lot of the jokes in the comic are about sex. This is because Bob’s surgery included cutting the erectile nerves. Little of the cancer literature talks about this from the partner’s point of view, or about its effect on the relationship. Yet that loss became a part of our daily lives.”

Having been a fabric artist for forty-four years, Shefrin stitched the sixty embroidered line drawings that appear in the book, making hers one of the most unusual manuscripts in B.C. literary history.

Intended for adult readers, *The Embroidered Cancer Comic* is distributed in Canada through UBC Press but was first published in London under the Singing Dragon imprint, Jessica Kingsley Publishers. Shefrin has primarily worked as a fabric artist and a book illustrator, describing herself as someone who is stitching for social change.

In conjunction with his one-man musical, *Songs and Stories of Davy the Punk*, Bob Bossin will also be at the JCC fest having released *Davy the Punk* (Porcupine’s Quill $22.95), the hitherto untold story of his father’s life in the gambling underworld of Toronto during the 1930s and ‘40s.

Embroidered: 978-1-84819-289-8

Punk: 978-0-88984-369-1

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**Thien gets Booker nod**

Born in Vancouver, Madeleine Thien, the daughter of Malaysian-Chinese immigrants, was taught to read at age three by her older sister. Shy and inarticulate, she retreated into literature while growing up in an immigrant family. Now her third novel, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (Knopf $35), is one of thirteen to be longlisted for this year’s Man Booker Prize.

In the novel, ten-year-old Marie and her mother invite a guest into their Canadian home in 1991. Ai-Ming is a young woman from China who has fled following the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square incident. The narrative proceeds to reveal inter-generational struggles of a group of musicians studying Western classical music at the Shanghai Conservatory in the 1960s and the resulting impact of the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations.

Madeleine Thien will be at the Whistler Writers Festival, Oct. 13-16 and at the 29th Vancouver Writers Festival, Oct. 18-23

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Distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books and internationally by Publishers Group West + Prestel Publishing
The Defiant Mind
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Ron Smith
An arresting memoir of a stroke survivor that takes us through the carpet bombing of the brain: the frustrations of being misunderstood and written off, the barriers to treatment, the painful recovery process, and the passionate will to live.
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Pamela Porter
Searing and lyrical, these poems explore the wisdom in starting over and moving on while enduring adversity — with a kind of singing that can defend darkness itself.
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Howard Richler
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Garry Gottfriedson
Poetry that takes us inside present-day First Nations reality to reveal the wounds of history and the possible healing to come.
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Live Souls
Citizens and Volunteers of Civil War Spain
Serge Alenss & Alec Wainman
This memoir by a medical volunteer in the Spanish Civil War (later a professor at UBC), along with 210 of his b&w photos, was long thought to be lost. Now recovered, it gives a stirring account of the opening act of WWII.
978-1-55380-437-6 (PRINT) / 978-1-55380-438-3 (EBOOK)  325 pp  7-3/4 X 8-7/8  $24.95

Is This Who We Are?
14 Questions about Quebec
Alain Dubuc / Translated by Nigel Spencer
This translation into English of Alain Dubuc’s Portrait de famille questions our national identity — if there is one — and how it may be more in flux than ever before.
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An edgy coming-of-age story about an adopted girl’s fight to discover her identity and the truth behind the scar on her face, while learning to fly a bush plane in the remote reaches of northern Saskatchewan.
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Mary Razzell
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Story: Philip Roy / Art: Andrea Torrey Balsara
In the fourth volume of the “Happy the Pocket Mouse” series, Happy’s dreams of a vacation include the Taj Mahal and New Zealand, but John offers only the woods and river. How’s a poor mouse to have any fun?
978-1-55380-479-6 (HC)  FULL COLOUR  32 pp  9 X 9  $12.95
Excessive use of technology can lead to depression, insomnia and anxiety according to Mari Swingle

that disrupts the life of users as well as those close to them. Swingle writes that i-addiction is now viewed like all other addictions, "...a problem involving impulse control regulation and an obsessive-compulsive behaviour."

For those children and adults exhibiting mental health problems and social dysfunction, Swingle’s recommended approach is to limit time spent on social media, gaming and other screen-related technology. "NO i-media or screens whatsoever before the age of two," she writes. "For most this is now four... For older children and adults, the healthy cut-off appears to be one hour per day. More than this is connected with increased anxiety, agitation, general restlessness, and related boredom when not ‘connected.’"

Other problems involve hyper-arousal due to the constant availability of incoming information. This leads to problems reaching a quiet state, so necessary for rebooting our brains and being creative and innovative.

Some people are more prone genetically to being negatively impacted by the dangers of technology.

"Anxiety and its little buddy stress are on the rise in adults and, most troubling, increasingly in children, adolescents and youth," she writes. "It appears all of us are functioning in significantly higher states of arousal. Accordingly, the rates of anxious depression, anxiety, and insomnia are skyrocketing as can be seen by pharmaceutical sales and rates of prevalence in the general population."

In short, the impact of new technology can be egregious.

Bullying has always been a reach and resulting power that bullying in the past did not... In the past, the bullied could usually find refuge, for example, at home or in a different social circle. Today they yesteryear cannot approach bullying has always been a reach and resulting power that bullying in the past did not... In the past, the bullied could usually find refuge, for example, at home or in a different social circle. Today they cannot."

The wide reach that technology has given pornography is another area where overkill is causing negative changes.

"The Internet shows us more, much more, than what occurs in the average person’s life in an average week... more positions, more orifices, more people, more locations, more objects, more toys... just plain more visual everything."

Swingle advisesfantastic changes. She wants us to move towards “what we wish to become in this new, and yes, wonderful, i-mediated world.”

i-Minds nonetheless mostly examine the dark side of technology. After two decades of studying the impacts of increasingly more screen time, Swingle says we now know that for children, and youth, excessive usage of digital media is associated with learning disabilities, emotional dysregulation (meaning malfunction), as well as conduct and behavioural disorders. In adults, excessive use of technology can lead to depression, insomnia and anxiety according to Mari Swingle.

"The arousal born of screen time is like a brain drug. Overdose at your own risk," Dr. Mari Swingle writes. "Bullying of yesteryear cannot approach what bullying can today," she writes. "Cyber bullying has a reach and resulting power that bullying in the past did not... In the past, the bullied could usually find refuge, for example, at home or in a different social circle. Today they cannot."

The pervasive influence of new technology has given pornography is another area where overkill is causing negative changes.

"The Internet shows us more, much more, than what occurs in the average person’s life in an average week... more positions, more orifices, more people, more locations, more objects, more toys... just plain more visual everything."

Swingle advises us to arm ourselves. What we need to do, Swingle advises, is to arm ourselves with information about how we want to manage these changes. She wants us to move towards “what we wish to become in this new, and yes, wonderful, i-mediated world.”

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"The arousal born of screen time is like a brain drug. Overdose at your own risk."

Dr. Mari Swingle is a behavioural specialist at the Swingle Clinic in Vancouver. She holds a BA in Visual Arts, an MA in Language Education, and a MA and PhD in Clinical Psychology. In 2015, she won the prestigious FABBS Early Career Impact Award for her contribution to Brain and Behavioural Sciences.

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Richard Wagamese, one of Canada’s best loved authors, brings you these evocative and insightful essays, this collection of personal reflections to inspire and ignite your spirit, carefully curated by the author. A stunning photography collection from celebrated anthropologist Wade Davis, representing the vast diversity of communities and cultural traditions he has encountered in his career.

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Wade Davis

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Backs to the Wall

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All Douglas & McIntyre titles are available from University of Toronto Press

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In Garage Criticism, Peter Babiak romps over contemporary global culture with the bravado of a teenage vandal.

people are supposed to do—question the real meaning and implications of elements of the larger culture that permeate our lives and to a large extent determine who we are, with or without our permission or connivance.

As Garage Critic, he’s taking up the scalpel wielded by the likes of Walter Benjamin, Susan Sontag, William Safire and Canada’s own culture vultures, Mark Kingwell and the inimitable Brian Fawcett. If you haven’t heard of any of these people, well, I’m sorry.

Garage Criticism, published in the early Sixties, in which she stunned the intellectual community by taking a critical approach that paid lip service to academic (serious) discourse, but applied it to the analysis of popular (trivial) culture phenomena. The trick didn’t always fly; Sontag’s style sometimes irrevocable subjects with an importance out of proportion to their actual significance and she had trouble conveying her sense of humour in writing. Like Fawcett, Babiak dares to address popular culture in language it can understand. Colloquial and relentlessly funny, Babiak uses personal anecdotal hooks to draw the reader to more serious issues. His academic colleagues will probably scorn him for interdisciplinary cross-dressing or “dumbing down the discourse.” I remember being very disillusioned at meeting many Very Smart People at UBC in the early Seventies and seeing all this insight and intellectual brilliance deliberately hidden behind masks of discipline-specific critical jargon concocted to exclude non-speakers from participating in “the discourse.” At a time when our culture is not only communicated but actually composed of digital media, so easily manipulated by the scourge of empty-headed corporate interests, we desperately need critics who aren’t afraid to call The Discourse a Snapchat.

It should be noted that Peter Babiak is an editor of Subterrain, Canada’s most enduring and inclusive literary journal and one of the few that enjoys no academic sponsorship, thus kisses no creative writing or English department ass. When Babiak’s mini-essays preface an issue, they’re invariably the first of many refreshing kicks to the sacred cows of contemporary culture, a destroyer of digital jargon concocted to exclude non-speakers from participating in “the discourse.” Also often dangerous because they allow raging idiots to attach any meaning they want to nonsense. We need Garage Critic. He is a ruthless wanker of sacred cows of contemporary culture, a destroyer of digital jargon concocted to exclude non-speakers from participating in “the discourse.”

When Morning Comes explores the roots of the 1976 Soweto Uprising in South Africa—told from the points-of-view of four youths from diverse backgrounds.

Introducing young adult readers to a remarkable new literary talent, When Morning Comes combines deeply compelling storytelling with a striking picture of South African society on the eve of the student-led uprising that changed it forever.

"Arushi Raina’s When Morning Comes is riveting historical fiction…its characters are engaging, its description of societal differences and injustice is thought-provoking, and its action sequences are at times heart-stopping.

At its best, historical fiction allows us to feel as if we are living through something we have only read about. That is especially true in the case of When Morning Comes."

—Bernie Goedhart, Montreal Gazette

“This novel presents an excellent starting point to inspire curiosity, and serves as a bold and dignified testament to a struggle that shouldn’t be forgotten.”

—Trilby Kent, Quill and Quire
The Killer Whale Who Changed the World
MARK LEIREN-YOUNG
978-1-77164-193-7 • HC • $29.95

“Mark Leiren-Young lays out the distressing tale of the capture of wild orca in the 20th century and how one particular whale, Moby, became a kind of martyr. His book is detailed, edifying, and amazing.”
—PHILIP HOARE, author of The Whale and The Sea Inside

Vancouver in the Seventies
Photos from a Decade That Changed the City
KATE BIRD, Introduction by SHELLEY FRALIC
978-1-77164-240-8 • HC • $39.95

“A family photo album for Vancouver, this book feels like home.”
—TAMARA TAGGART
ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Ashley Little’s harrowing odyssey across the American continent is full of lively dialogue and humour.

The point is emphasized later in this novel when Tucker, back in Canada, accepts a ride from an attractive, normal couple. Their names are Paul and Karla.

The climactic scene of the novel is Tucker and Meredith’s arrival in Los Angeles. It coincides disastrously with the start of the riots that erupted in Los Angeles in the spring of 1992 after three police officers were acquitted in the beating of Rodney King.

By the time the riots ended, fifty-five people had been killed and over 2,000 injured. Tucker manages to escape from Los Angeles, the experience has propelled him into adulthood.

In On the Road Again by Ashley Little, the hero of Tucker Malone, a sixteen-year-old sex worker who is the hero of Niagara Motel is a late twentieth century descendent of Huckleberry Finn through Holden Caulfield. His story is set in the early 1990s, when television had not yet yielded its power over the imagination of the young to the internet and smart phones.

Tucker’s mother is a stripper and sex worker. These jobs, on which their livelihood depends, are complicated by her disability—narcolepsy with cataplexy. The two are forced to move constantly from place to place and from one motel to another. In this unstable life, the long-running television sitcom, Cheers, fills a vacuum, exerting over Tucker the seductive power of a religion.

Tucker’s yearning for his absent father, about whom he knows nothing, is so strong that it overcomes his rational intelligence. He believes that Sam Malone, the owner of the Cheers bar in Boston, is his father, a belief that is strengthened by the coincidence of their shared name.

Tucker and his mother find a temporary home in a motel in Niagara Falls until her narcolepsy causes a serious accident. She falls asleep on the highway, gets hit by a car, and ends up in intensive care. Tucker is sent to a group home for delinquents and kids without parents. When a violent incident makes the place unbearable, he escapes, setting out on a search for his imagined father, Sam Malone.

The companion on his journey is Meredith, a sixteen-year-old sex worker who is pregnant. From this point on, Niagara Motel turns into an odyssey across the entire American continent.

First they drive to the Cheers bar in Boston and then, after learning that the show was actually filmed in Hollywood, they head west in a futile search for Sam Malone or the actor who played him.

When their stolen car breaks down, they hitchhike, means of travel that brings them into contact with a range of quirky and sinister Americans, some of them actual characters from the 1990s. The latter include Timothy, a man with 200 guns in his vehicle, who invokes the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution and rails against the U.S. government. He can’t believe that Tucker doesn’t know how to handle a gun and under-takes to teach him.

Tucker, afraid to cross Timothy, goes along with the lesson, hits a target, and finds the experience surprisingly exhilarating.

Timothy is on his way to Oklahoma City. When Tucker asks why he is going there, the man replies, “I could tell you. But then I’d have to kill you.” At the other end of the spectrum are two benign-highness, so upset by accidentally running over a rabbit that they involve Tucker and Meredith in a ritual burial of the creature. They also introduce Tucker to pot smoking.

Other drivers include Relvis, an Elvis impersonator, a gasoline-sniffing evangelical, a transwoman, a Goth, and a transport truck driver. The model and colour of each car is carefully specified, and is an extension of its owner’s personality.

Tucker’s salient characteristic is his reluctance to judge others, a trait established early in the novel, when Meredith explains why she likes him:

“‘You’re the only person who knows what I do and doesn’t make me feel like a piece of shit for doing it. You’re the only person who doesn’t judge me,’ she said.

“Why would I judge you? It’s just a job.”

“See, that’s exactly what I’m talking about.”

The trip takes Tucker and Meredith through various American landmarks and places—Dodge City, the badlands and towns of the Old West, Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon. When they stand in awe looking down at the Grand Canyon, Meredith sees in the vast crater an image of the emptiness in her own heart. “I’m almost completely hollowed out,” she says. Tucker is more sanguine. Even though terrible things have happened to him too, he counters with the image of Niagara Falls, seeing in the great cascade the restorative and healing properties of water: “I thought about how everyone has little Grand Canyons inside them but everyone has little Niagara Falls too.”

An overriding theme of acceptance, of tolerance, of not judging by appearances, runs throughout Niagara Motel. When the spiked collar, black lipstick and fingernails of one driver make Tucker apprehensive, Meredith reassures him: “It’s just a fashion. It’s called Goth.” She muses that sometimes the weirdest looking people are the most normal and the normal looking people are the weirdest.

In 2014, Ashley Little won both the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for Anatomy of a Girl Gang and the Shelia A. Egoff Children’s Prize for her young adult novel, The New Normal. She will be at The Vancouver Writers Festival, October 17-23.

Next year she’ll be the Edna Staebler Writer in Residence at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Joan Givner reviews Niagra Motel by Ashley Little (Arsenal Pulp Press $17.95).
The genes's of Generation X

I was twenty-five years ago that Douglas Coupland wrote Generation X, completed with considerable support from his friend and editor at Vancouver magazine, Mac Parry.

Here's Coupland's reminiscence of how he came to produce his modern classic, Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture (St. Martin's Press, 1991), one of the most significant books by a B.C. author. As he recorded in Vancouver magazine, Coupland—who had never considered himself a writer—was designing baby cribs and preparing for an art show when he got a message on his new answering machine... Meanwhile Douglas Coupland has contributed the foreword to Vancouver in the Seventies: Photos from a Decade That Changed the City (Greystone Press) and released a new collection of stories and essays, Bit Rot (Penguin Random House $32).

One July afternoon in 1987 I was living in a broiler-down between Gastown and Chinatown. The guts down the hall were moving back to the third dimension—a process at which I bought my first answering machine for $15.

In 1987 people still thought “Won...cool...an answering machine,” and plugged it in an armoire in the afternoon, and went down to Glen Lake's by the Granville Jack steak and stimulator when I got home on hour later, the red light was blinking...my first message ever and what a message it was. Mac Parry was calling from Vancouver magazine, and, as accu-rately as I can remember, he said, “Coupland, Mac Parry from Vancouver magazine. Get your ear down, as I'm calling about writing. We want to send you to Beverly Hills to write a feature story for us.”

Me write a story? I’d have been no less sur-prised if he’d asked me to come into Vancouver and fill the hot water heater. Until then I thought myself almost exclusively as someone who, to be specific, made things in three dimensions, either manually or using industrial processes. I shared specifically, made items in three dimensions, either manually or using industrial processes. I shared. It was the day of the company’s once-a-year annual ad sales meeting—the rest of the year everybody showed up as though drowsed for a Grade 10 social studies class. But the effect of all these glamorous people never left me to me, maga-zi-ne-glimmer. Sometimes I got through periods when I like them more than at other times, but it’s always been there, and I think I’ve known it forever.

Back to Mac Parry.

Mac’s office was at the end of a hall that was definitely not rescued or refurbished. Like almost any magazine offices anywhere—including all the logos on Vogue and London—and it was a coiled together mass of semi-functional office furniture, dusty mis-matched fabric-covered cubicle bidders, stacking chairs and maybe des k IBM Selectric in various degrees of functional-ity and now available on eBay for roughly $65 bucks a pop. The overall effect? Glamour? It was great! I could hear the anonymus and lack of rules in the air. I felt like a dog driving past the butcher shop, my mouth stuck out the window getting a heady, crack-like burst of sensations: this is life. Mac was both terrifying and amazing. He asked if I’d like to go to Beverly Hills and begin my first real paid opening, the opening of the Ace Gallery in which he had been the Bullocks-Wilshire building across the street from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The next day I wrote the story, handed it to him and received a fee—$1,000. Ridiculous? No, I felt like I was loving the place, and boy, that much money really made my studio life easier. Then, as now, making anything is never cheap. In my mind, a very happy, heady, crack-like burst of sensations: this is life. I went to Beverly Hills, and I decided to wear a nubbly Value Village blazer, because in such a way as to make Generation X sound like it came from the director of Beverly Hills, but it wasn’t—it comes from the final chapter of a beach acid trip, Paul Par ry’s call... There. I hope that’s the last word on that. It ended up with me writing a story per in-an-hour, an an-hour which some of the old guard who thought I had a “dry muse” by writing small hundred-word pieces for the up front City Sex section. I thought this was so curvy, even now, two decades later, I met these people and they’re still thinking that I never wrote highs for City Sex before I began writing features. Following the Reform Party piece, I wrote a series of stories for Mac Par ry’s call... I was given the fun of everyone visiting scenes of daily life, and within days, my story was written and published, and it was a food chain and everyone in it got along and supported from his friend and editor Mac Par ry. I was able to believe that I was remembering that magazines were a more democratic and accessible place than they are now. In the same way that now we can discuss the second season of Entourage on DVD, we can talk about what they read in Vancouver, I can only wonder at the cultural force of maga-zines in the days before.

Somewhere that I’ll also write a little piece for Generation X which created a lot of stir around the city’s water coolers. It was abso-lutely the story that was meant to be the book, though I would like to say that it was edited in such a way as to make Generation X sound like it came from the director of Beverly Hills, but it wasn’t—it comes from the final chapter of a beach acid trip, Paul Par ry’s call... There. I hope that’s the last word on that.

Doug Coupland (above and centre) there was a food chain and everyone in it got along and supported from his friend and editor Mac Par ry. I was able to believe that I was remembering that magazines were a more democratic and accessible place than they are now. In the same way that now we can discuss the second season of Entourage on DVD, we can talk about what they read in Vancouver, I can only wonder at the cultural force of magazines in the days before.

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Doug Coupland with his Vancouver magazine, Mac Par ry (red shirt) and the Vancouver Sun featuring wind turbines at Cologne Springs in 1988.

In her debut novel, When Morning Comes, Arushi Raina’s ensemble of first person narrators includes Jack, a white boy from a rich English family, whose life is changed forever when he meets Zanele, a young black woman filling in for her sister at a Shebeen (unlicensed bar). Having snuck into the establishment with his friends in blackface, Jack is unable to get Zanele out of his head. The Shebeen is run by a tsotsi gangster named Thabo who shakes down local businesses for protection money. The police maintain their dominance over Soweto as a whole but they don’t interfere in Thabo’s micro-Mafia coercions.

Pillay’s All Purpose store is run by an Indian man and his daughter, Meena, who is studying to get into med school. Her life is complicated when she comes across a collection of subversive literature, the kind that gets people five years in prison.

The abo gata (police) are represented by Coetzee, a plainclothes cop who hunts down Zanele and her co-conspirators.

All these characters are affected by the explosive, game-changing protests that famously occurred in Soweto in 1976. Already beaten down at every turn by apartheid and the Boers, the Black students of Soweto finally rose in defiance at being forced to learn their studies in Afrikaans.

Raina’s novel captures this moment in history with unflinching precision. When Mankwe, Zanele’s older sister, loses her fiancé, it comes across as inevitable. The characters are accustomed to death, to losing friends and loved ones for no good reason.

Raina weaves in real events and names to add authenticity to the story. The route taken by the student protestors is exactly the one taken in the actual uprising. The names of the dead are taken directly from history.

As well, Raina ably captures the sense of internal mistrust fostered between citizens. Each character is the centre of a web of connections. Thabo has a side business selling secrets to the abo gata. A professor is murdered by his students for his participation in the Bantu education system.

When Zanele is accused of murder, it’s Coetzee who’s sent to find her. When Thabo finds himself short on protection money, it’s Meena’s shop he goes to shake down. One of the regulars at this shop is paid to drive Coetzee around.

But it’s the complex relationship between Jack and Zanele, as it unfolds with the uprising, that remains the chief focus of the story. As their romance blossoms, they get more and more embroiled in the struggle against apartheid. Jack finds himself doing more and more to help Zanele, without really understanding why. Zanele is slowly depending more on Jack, equally baffled by her continued entanglement with him. With both their families and the law against their union, it’s more complex than simply the Montagues versus the Capulets. Love is a many splintered thing.

Intended for young adults, When Morning Comes convincingly conveys a moment in history as personal and tangible, capturing the way tragedy was transformed into hope and possibility.
HANNAH’S COUPLES

The straitjacket of plot can be likened to the straitjacket of marriage.

Piranesi’s Figures
by Hannah Calder (New Star $21)

BY JAIDEN DEMBO

Hannah Calder’s debut novel More House (New Star, 2009) was praised as “a fusion, a collage, a bold endeavor of literary work, a ‘new’ novel” by Anakana Schofield. Her Piranesi’s Figures is another experimental novel that strays from a conventional narrative approach with settings in contemporary Rome, 18th century Rome, mid-20th century Margate (England), Heidelberg (Germany) and the Okanagan. The title refers to 18th century artist Giovanni Battista Piranesi whose architectural etchings of grand buildings are peopled by decrepit humans in the foreground. Both Piranesi and his hordes of ragged, seemingly homeless figures (representing humanity at large) appear in Calder’s new novel which began eight years ago as a story about mentally ill artists.

In Calder’s world of fiction there is no reality that can be relied on, anything is viable—there’s always the opportunity to erase the words on the page and start the scene over. The main characters are three sets of dysfunctional, married couples—Hilda and Jorgen, Bill and Violet, and Florence and Stephen. No one appears content in their current romantic arrangement. This leads to frequent affairs, unplanned pregnancies, abortions and miscarriages.

Piranesi’s Figures also explores the dissatisfaction of unfulfilling employment. Hilda would rather be an artist than a nurse but she lacks the talent for it. There are a handful of guidelines that keep the characters in check, and allow for a loosely maintained structure with the use of an all-knowing History Book that fact checks for the reality that is being written for these characters. Meanwhile Piranesi’s Figures bends time and jumps from one locale to the next, from one century to the next, as characters travel from one story into another, like passengers visiting different countries. They always return to their original story and await their fates.

If that sounds obtuse, well, that’s what happens when you invent characters who know they are characters, who have their own ideas and desires and don’t feel like sticking to the script. Despite their reluctance to obey the author, they are bound to act out their destinies and the whims of their creator. The only thing these characters can hope for is that when the novel ends they could be reborn, rewritten, or borrowed and put into another tale that better suits their needs. Until then you can see them waltzing through centuries, returning to ancient Rome and then back again to the 1940s in Germany and England. Piranesi’s Figures is another bold endeavour. Hannah Calder has explored the limitations of the modern family, and the painful longing for one. Like marriage, it’s not for the faint of heart.

9781554201129

BCBW associate editor
Jaiden Dembo lives in Surrey.

Hannah Calder teaches English at Okanagan College in Vernon.

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BY JAIDEN DEMBO

The straitjacket of plot can be likened to the straitjacket of marriage.

Piranesi’s Figures
by Hannah Calder (New Star $21)
NEW BC FICTION FROM THISTLEDOWN PRESS

Hanne and Her Brother

Bill Stenson
978-1-77187-114-3
$19.95 CAD

Belgian clock repairman Arthur Lemmons moves his teenage daughter Hanne to the Cowichan Valley, but her journey of hardships and personal growth takes her across western Canada in this irresistibly charming, dynamic tale by Victoria-based Bill Stenson.

Cluck

Lenore Rowntree
978-1-77187-108-2
$19.95 CAD

Set in Vancouver’s Kitsilano neighbourhood, this heartwarming and quirky novel looks into the life of Henry, a man discovering his own identity affected by social awkwardness, sexual repression, and his mother’s mental illness.
WELCOME TO THE
HOTEL ABUNDANCIA

Haunting stories of healing past hurts in Mexico.

Hotel Abundancia by Ellen Arrand (Ekstasis $29.95)

After dinner and many tequilas at the Hotel Abundancia, Sara and her new friend Julie amuse themselves by wondering how their hotel in Real del Catorce, Mexico, got its name. They make up a story about a little girl named Abundancia.

"Then they make up another one about their separate possible futures," says Ellen Arrand, author of Hotel Abundancia. "Sharing stories is the essence of countering the effects of oppression and healing past hurts. The past must be dealt with."

And Sara, we will learn, has had her share of hurts. First, her unaffectionate parents made her feel invisible, leaving their only child vulnerable to any signs of love or attention. When she had finally found a circle of friends at her school in the Okanagan, her parents’ decision to move to Victoria was devastating.

By the time Sara met her first love, Harley, her self-esteem was so low that she settled for an unsavory, abusive relationship, telling herself things would get better and Harley would change. Wishful thinking can be deadly.

It was her friend Claire who had the solution. Claire introduced her to the Trutch Street women, a group of mainly single mothers, living in apartments in a few of Victoria’s converted mansions. Sara found a home and a refuge among a circle of supportive, strong women. But then Claire died.

Into middle age and living on the edge of poverty as a substitute teacher, Sara has allowed herself to be convinced that she needs to get away, to get back to her poetry, to return to Mexico for a third time. Her biggest encouragement has come from her beloved daughter, Elk, the only good thing that came out of her union with Harley.

“I divided the book into three parts,” says Arrand, “because Sara makes three, separate extended journeys to Mexico. The first as a novice, the second for pure joy to be with her lover, and the third to find herself again and pick up her struggles and triumphs.”

A great deal of Hotel Abundancia recalls Sara’s complicated but very sexy relationship with a much older lover, Saul, who seduces her with his storytelling abilities.

“I think my book is primarily about storytelling and memory,” says Arrand. “How storytelling connects us, heals us, and transforms us. And how we make stories out of memory. “Sara’s past is both a story that haunts her and a story of liberation. She heals herself from that huge, romantic, mystical love of Saul because of the politicization from the Trutch Street women’s group. In the end, she gains herself.”

Also a playwright, Arrand has written The Trutch Street Women and a one-act play, Bear Me Stiffly Up, that was published by Ekstasis Editions and produced in Victoria by Theatre Inconnu. Her first novel, Public Works Private Souls, was published by Beach Holme in 1994.

978-1-77171-170-8

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.
“Richly detailed and engagingly written …”
— Kirkus Reviews, *starred review*

Ages 12+ / 978-1-55451-785-5 paper / 978-1-55451-786-2 hardcover

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BEAUTIFUL FALL BOOKS!
Karim Alrawi's Book of Sands revisits the protests and the demonstrations that erupted in Cairo that led to the ousting of Hosni Mubarak.

Alrawi, now a Vancouverite, was born in Alexandria, Egypt but his descriptions of the lingering acrid smell of tear gas can only mean he has been inspired by events at Tahrir Square. In Book of Sands we meet Tarek, a puppeteer, who is trying to keep his family together.

The protests are frequently mentioned, but the novel’s focus is always on the immediate entanglements of family and obligation. Tarek only visits Tahrir Square, the central protest location, once for less than one hour, searching for a friend’s son, but it turns out to be his undoing.

Tarek must flee the city as the political struggle for democracy fades to white noise. Tarek tells his daughter nudes which, unbeknownst to her, are based on real events, in the real world. We never know the extent to which Tarek has embellished his tales.

Gradually we learn that the birth of his daughter and meeting his wife—events that occurred in that order—would not have happened without his youthful dissonance and rebellion.

Tarek’s personal struggle never gets grandiose or analogous to the fighters in the city square. He simply wants survival.

Some characters in Book of Sands grip God too tight, such as his brother-in-law, Omar; others favour science and rationalism. Tarek was originally a mathematician, but after having wrongfully imprisoned for attending a protest, he has switched to being a puppeteer, chiefly in order to cement the bonds of love with his daughter, Neda.

Halfway through the novel, Neda wakes from a nightmare to see swarms of birds flying out of the mouths of mourners. Similarly, while drinking arak and smoking bango, Corpal Aboud hallucinates while looking at a fire. The flames and smoke coalesce into hyenas. The pack of hyenas proceed to obliterate an entire household.

We never learn whether these fantastic events were imagined or experienced.

WHAT A TEACHER LEARNS

Kyuquot becomes Tawakin
Jennifer Manuel’s debut novel

The Heaviness of Things that Float
by Jennifer Manuel (D&M $22.95)

Or three years Jennifer Manuel worked alongside non-profit Aboriginal groups in Vancouver’s Eastside to develop and deliver education to vulnerable adults, later expanding this work to include the Native Women’s Association of Canada.

Manuel’s activities in Vancouver led her to work as a teacher of Aboriginal children in Kyuquot, a small boat-in-only community on the northwest corner of Vancouver Island where she was adopted by the John family. The elder Kelly John gave her the name aa ap wa ick which means, “Always speaks wisely.”

Jennifer Manuel published her first short story in Room Magazine.

Manuel has now fashioned a debut novel about a woman who has lived for forty years on the periphery of a First Nations community as a nurse, thereby gaining intimate knowledge of local secrets.

Weeks from retirement, Bernadette, or “Bernie,” hears the news over VHF radio that Chase Charlie, the young man she has loved like a son, has been missing for a full day. The whole reserve comes together for the search.

In a world “too small for secrets,” without any immediate family of her own, Bernie must simultaneously come to terms with her middle ground status on the Tawakin reserve in The Heaviness of Things that Float (D&M $22.95) while searching for her own identity.

There is very little privacy on Tawakin. Everyone uses the VHF radio to talk to one another, with one open channel serving as the phone system. Gossip on the island travels at the speed of light. And yet secrets persist. The missing man’s father is Frank Charlie. But there’s also Jimmy Charlie, whom Bernie’s medical records list as Chase’s father.

Maybe it’s the size of the island, maybe it’s the tides. But be it bottles or old wounds or bodies, everything comes back eventually.

Bernie’s replacement is a young woman named Wren. Like many who came before her to the island, she is convinced the residents need saving. She’s ready to rally for the cause. But do the people of Tawakin need saving? More importantly, do they need saving by some outsider?

Ultimately Manuel’s novel succeeds in revealing a tiny, beautiful world that’s dense with secrets and stories.

Manuel has since done graduate work in Aboriginal education. Much of her fiction examines the relationship between Aboriginal students and a non-Aboriginal teacher.

A mother of three, she is the daughter of Lynn Manuel (1948-2016), who wrote books for children.

THE PERILS OF AFGHANISTAN

Kevin Patterson’s non-fiction investigation of the war in Afghanistan has now led to his novel From the Red Desert (Random House $32).

Beginning at the Kandahar Airfield, he introduces an American war correspondent embedded with Canadian infantry, Deirdre O’Malley, “who has come to love the soldiers she covers so much that she’s sliding toward feeling like a member of the mission herself.” Deirdre’s ex-lover is the American general in charge, making her increasingly uncomfortable with her growing awareness of civilian casualties and the use of torture.

Patterson lives on Salt Spring Island and works at the Nanaimo General Hospital as a specialist in internal medicine. 9780345815040

The Heaviness of Things that Float by Jennifer Manuel (D&M $22.95)

Kevin Patterson will be at the Whistler Writers Festival, Oct. 13-16.

FOR THREE YEARS JENNIFER MANUEL WORKED alongside non-profit Aboriginal groups in Vancouver’s Eastside to develop and deliver education to vulnerable adults, later expanding this work to include the Native Women’s Association of Canada.

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The Highway of Tears is a lonely seven hundred kilometer stretch of road that winds through the Coast Mountains wilderness of British Columbia. Over the last four decades, nine young women have been murdered or gone missing from this remote highway.

All but one were Aboriginal.

To date, not one case has been solved.

Ex-RCMP turned private eye, Ray Michalko embarks on a life-altering journey to unlock the secrets of these cases.

Obstruction of Justice is a gritty, unconventional, and often infuriating, account of Canada’s murdered and missing women tragedy in microcosm.

6 x 9 • 272 Pages
Available now
www.reddeerpress.com
Dancing in the Rain
by Shelley Hrdlitschka
(Orcas $14.95)

Shelley Hrdlitschka says she has been moved by Dancing Naked as a teenager and had faithfully been combing the shelves ever since, looking for the next book. “She was in her twenties!” says Hrdlitschka. “She had kept waiting for ten twenties!” says Hrdlitschka. She was in her next book. “She was in her shelves ever since, looking for faithfully been combing the ked been moved by Hrdlitschka saying she had young woman wrote to BABY?? but Hrdlitschka had by, What happened to the baby? followed wrote and asked, What hap-pened to the baby? followed childs to another family. Fans eventual decision to adopt her through pregnancy and her mother used to work. This mother used to work. North Vancouver’s Shelley Hrdlitschka on Grouse Mountain.

Everybody hurts, and nobody’s life is perfect—not even in the end.

Although Ryan returns to Australia when his mother is discharged from rehab, he and Brenna maintain their con-nection, with him encourag-ing her to take part in a relay on Grouse to raise funds for breast cancer research.

We can’t reveal what hap-pens next, whether the past can be reconciled with the fu-ture. Suffice to say Hrdlitschka is once again trotting around all four bases.

Dancing in the Rain is an uplifting, heartwarming book that reminds young readers to look outside themselves for support when times get hard.

Adoption is an issue close to Hrdlitschka’s heart because she has three adopted sib-lings. “In my extended family, there are all kinds of adop-tions,” she says, “and many across race lines.”

Hrdlitschka sprinkles some good guidance around, show-ing her characters making good and not-so-good choices from which they learn. Everybody hurts, and nobody’s life is perfect—not even in the end. But it’s real. And there’s a real beauty in that.

Alex Van Tol is the author of Aliens Among Us: Invasive Animals and Plants in B.C.

Illustrated by Polish artist Ada Buchholc, it looks at 43 women through the ages who have made an impression by dressing or looking differently—from the likes of Black Panther intellectual Angela Davis to Cleopatra and her intentional minicity of the Goddess Isis. Other fashion standouts in-clude Frida Kahlo, Marlene Dietrich. Coco Chanel, des-igner Rei Kawakubo, Björk, Rihanna, Nicki Minaj, Vogue editor Anna Wintour, riot grrrl Kathleen Hanna and, of course, Madonna and Marilyn Monroe.

Jennifer Croll’s Fashion That Changed the World (Prestel, 2014) has been followed by a lighter treatment of similar ma-terial for Bad Girls of Fashion: Style Rebels from Cleopatra to Lady Gaga (Annick $16.95) for mainly teen readers.
With Emily Carr as her guide, journalist Laurie Carter takes readers on an epic trek through the history, culture, and landscape of British Columbia.

At bookstores and online retailers
Distributed by Heritage Group

When his mother moves the family from the reserve to inner city, an artistically gifted First Nation youth struggles with poverty, peer pressure, discrimination, drugs and alcohol while trying to save his sister from the lure of prostitution.

In his debut novel, Harshly Purring, Michael Knox evokes, in cinematic prose, a glimpse of the complexity of the suburban, and a meditation on disaster and masculinity.
Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun wants to change the name of British Columbia — and with his art he wants to change the way you think.

“I don’t kai-yai around,” says Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun. “I want them to understand who they are.”

B RITISH COLUMBIA JOINED THE Dominion of Canada without the written consent of Aboriginal people. This is a non-treaty province. Your back rent is due, British Columbia!

Let us formally change the name of British Columbia, because this land is not your land, Canada. This land is not your land, B.C.

I suggest that we call this province what it truly is: the Northwest Coast Territory, or NWCT. My other title proposal is the Traditional Native Territories, or TNT...

If they want to go the distance on land claims, then I claim the sky. I’m going to count every cloud of the day and you can buy those clouds. They’re not free. I’m going to count every tree, I’m going to count every bird, I’m going to count every worm. We’re going to count how many raindrops fall per square inch, and you can buy the rain — you can have the rain then, but it’s not going to be free...

I’m not a traditionalist, though I did my Black Face dancing, I did my masked dancing, and I have traditional philosophy. But my work is for the world. Natives already know what it feels like having a bad colonial day. We wake up to it. Reading the paper again, reading about some Indian woman being killed or some Indian man being slashed up and beat up — there’s always something there. And they’re not always good Indian men: Indian men killing Indian women, brown on brown. It’s disheartening. Where does that violence come from? There’s this whole world of clashes of culture and time, and it’s not something you see on a totem pole. It’s been my life’s goal to portray the negative and positive realities of this world. I’m interested in recording history: residential schools, global warming, deforestation, and pollution; worldwide concerns such as the hole in the ozone layer; environmentalism, humanities, humour, and existentialism.

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Illuminated by lyricism and deep human wisdom... A work of serious literary ambition and substantial achievement.

— Vancouver Sun

Capturing Hill 70
Canada’s Forgotten Battle of the First World War
EDITED BY DOUGLAS E. DELANEY AND SERGE DURFLINGER

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JOHN ARMSTRONG

A hilarious, perceptive and moving new memoir from the author of Guilty of Everything and Wages. A Series of Dogs is about the dogs that have added texture and meaning to Armstrong’s own journey, and introduces the reader to a cast of some of the most memorable characters to come along in Canadian literature in some time—all of them dogs.

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34 BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 016
TEN YEARS CANCER-FREE, Susan D’Agostino of White Rock recalls her experiences with healing in Guided to Wisdom: The Journey to Emotional Healing (Promontory $14.95). Inspired by Brandon Bays’ The Journey, D’Agostino decided intuitively that invasive medical techniques wouldn’t save her, instead she “unlocked her own inner power and resolved not only the cancer, but her life-long battle with depression, and a failing marriage.” 9781927559963

FORMERLY A BIOLOGIST AND THE FOUNDING director of the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy, Ann Eriksson will soon release her fifth novel, The Performance (D&M $22.95) in which she explores inequality by contrasting the worlds of elite classical piano and urban homelessness as they coexist within a city. Hana Knight is a privileged and talented pianist who develops a friendship with Jacqueline, a homeless woman who collects empty bottles and cans to buy tickets to attend Hana’s concerts.

The cover of Kerry Gilbert’s prose poems, Tight Wire (Mother Tongue $18.95) features an act of tightrope walking known as funambulism. “The
**AN AMERICAN IN ST. PETERSBURG**

by Michael Bickerton

Afghanistan combat veteran Geoff Mathers travels to St. Petersburg where he falls in love with civil engineering student, Tatyana—but the violence of Putin’s regime overwhelms them.

ISBN: 9780991952427

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**INDIAN HORSE**

Ralph Hancox's third novel is two years, The Ape and the Peacock (Fictive Press, $17.99), emanates from his social conscience. Set in the fictional Canadian province of Superior, his story spans several high-level government officials and their differing fates. As the lives of the people involved are increasingly tied, Hancox explores unequal consequences for the privileged and the dispossessed.

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**H is for Hancox**

RALPH HANCOX’S THIRD NOVEL IS TWO YEARS, The Ape and the Peacock (Fictive Press, $17.99,) emonates from his social conscience. Set in the fictional Canadian province of Superior, his story spans a few days in November of 1957, following the paths of two miscreants and their differing fates. As the lives of several high-level government officials and a colourful cast of “destitute’s” are forever altered, Hancox explores un-/ equilibrium. He has been shortlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize, and the Malahat Review’s Open Season Award.

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**K is for Keane**

ALSO KNOWN AS ROOTWOMAN, Vancouver Island herbalist Kahlee Keane has gathered information about more than 100 medicinal plants from ‘medicine people’ and healers for The Standing People: Wild Medicinal Plants of British Columbia (Sandhill $29.95). Each plant is featured on two pages which, in addition to text and photographs, also include common names, folk names, First Nations names, French names, the Latin binomial and tips for quick identification. She has a similar title for the Prairies.

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**L is for Lee**

IN JEN SOOKFONG LEE’S THE CORONADO (ECW $18.95), Jessica Campbell sorts through her dead mother’s belongings and makes a shocking discovery—two dead girls curled run away. Jessica unearths dark truths that force her to confront her own life and who her mother really was.

---

**36 BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 2016**
In the realm of European letters, his 2014 collection Autumn Leaves (Ekstasis $23.95) has been translated into Romanian by Lucia Gorea and republished in Romanian as Frunze de Toamna.

The portmanteau hold 98.5% of their capacity in order to allow for expansion.

Four men and two women are portrayed in two cellists, two violinists and four rooms. Four men and two women are sexually entangled musicians on an ill-fated winter tour. They have only their secrets to keep them warm. Complications arise because there are only two violists. Nobody knows the full sexual score.

Richard Ouzounian, a longtime reviewer of Canadian theatre, called Sextet “the best script Morris Panych has ever written.”

Born in Calgary in 1952, Morris Panych grew up mostly in Edmonton. Upon completing his Fine Arts degree at UBC in creative writing and theatre, he spent two years studying acting in London, England, then returned to Vancouver in 1980 where he became artistic director of Tamahous Theatre. He has since become possibly Canada’s most prolific and successful modern playwright.

The gift of history...
In 1974, Ron Smith founded Oolichan Books.

FRANK TOWNSLEY STARTED TAKING PHOTOS at age seven and has never stopped. Robert Bateman provides the foreword for Townsley’s British Columbia: Graced by Nature’s Palette (Sandhill $49.95). “Like his watercolours, each of his photos is a work of art which not only captures the subject, but captures a moment. In art, it is the idea that counts. Early 20th century author Willa Cather counts. Early 20th century author Willa Cather says, "Through this painful, riveting journey, says her pal Jane Fonda, “the bright, curious child manages to grow into a resilient, hopeful artist. There’s also an endorsement from Helen Hunt. It all began with her five years as an actor for Tamalnous Theatre.

AS A SESSIONAL LECTURER AT UBC, KIM TRAISOR has released Karyotype (Brick $20), a poetry collection about a woman who lived four thousand years ago. Dubbed Loulan, her body has been preserved in the sands of the Taklamakan Desert—the largest desert in China, in the southwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The word karyotype, we are told, is “the characteristic chromosome complement of a species.” Traisor has worked in a biomedical library and for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Previously her poetry won the Ralph Gustafson Prize from The Fiddlehead and the Long Poem Prize from The Malahat Review.

With more than 85 recipes for muffins, mains, pastries and preserves, Julie Van Rosendaal features “the heady sensuousness of the peaches and plums, the sweet crispness of the apples and pears, and the zesty sweetness of the cherries and apricots” grown by the 500 farmer families of B.C. Tree Fruits Association for her seventh cookbook, Out of the Orchard: Recipes for Fresh Fruits from the Sunny Okanagan (Touchwood $29.95). She’s a food editor of Parents Canada magazine and a contributing food editor at Western Living.

Barbara Williams appeared in the 1991 John Sayles film City of Hope.
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Kat Rose
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 25-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 dutiful need to help her younger sister who is forced to live with their estranged father, Jack.

The Loss (CreateSpace / Red Tuque 2015)
978-1515174868 $13.99, 251 pages, 6x9
Building It Up (CreateSpace / Red Tuque 2015)
978-1517061401 $12.99, 219 pages, 6x9
A Father’s Daughter (CreateSpace / Red Tuque 2016)

http://kat-rose-c1r1.squarespace.com/artists

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Communication breakdown

Far more people in the world now have access to mobile phones than to working toilets.

“Surfing, clicking, texting, sharing, friending and liking,” says Anton Scamvougeras, “have arguably taken the place of looking, seeing, listening, talking, thinking and just plain doing nothing, hanging out or being bored. Are we losing the capacity for quiet solitude? Are we filling all previously-empty spaces in our days with electronic ‘busy-ness’? Have online ‘friends’ taken the place of the other sort? Have second lives replaced our first? And, if this is the case, should it be cause for concern?”

His collection of 75 pen and ink illustrations depicting humans isolated by their personal technology, Dysconnected: Isolated by Our Mobile Devices (Sandhill Book Marketing $19.95) provides matching quotes, opinions and facts, as well as startling stats about phone use. We think it’s easily one of the best books of the year.

978-0-9952056-0-4 / www.dysconnected.com

Japanese at the battle of Hong Kong in December 1941. German submarines were sinking Canadian merchant ships in the Gulf of St. Lawrence off the coast of Quebec. Hesquiat radio station was a prime target for attack because it was well known by the Japanese as a station with good long-range reception. During the years before the war Japanese Maru ships commonly called Hesquiat radio station when they were still miles offshore to announce their pending arrival. Also, it was common knowledge that it also handled all traffic with the C.P.R. Empress ships.

No wonder it was assumed the attack was a Japanese submarine, which it actually was! Robert Hess Nanaimo

Cover to cover

SUMMER GREETINGS FROM DENMAN ISLAND. We really appreciate your publication and read it cover to cover. Then we buy books 1942. We buy books and put in requests at VIRL. Lots of superb B.C. books all year. Thanks to all of you.

Rae Eckel
Denman Island

Minning written under

MAY I QUOTE A SentENCE, “ Even though mining was once the second most important industry in British Columbia, the number of books related to B.C. mining are miniscule compared to the number of books about logging and fishing.” from your email of June 6?

It’s such a shame that an important and fascinating feature of Canadian industry and culture has remained so unwritten.

I have assembled (with help from you and others) a list of non-technical books on mineral exploration. Fiction is the class in short supply. Would you be able to point me to comparable lists for forestry and fishing? Robert Longe

author of The Nisselinka Claims

[Yes, go to the ABCBookWorld.com reference site. You can search there by categories among all the books by more than 11,000 B.C. authors. Meanwhile we have appended Longe’s list of mining titles to his ABCBookWorld.com entry.—Ed.]

Estevan revisited

RE: ANNALS OF THE LIGHTKEEPERS & THE ESTEVAN Controversy in BC BookWorld. The article states Estevan Point lighthouse keeper Robert Lally and two witnesses reported the lighthouse was shelled by a warship 5 km. offshore on June 20, 1942.

It states the Canadian government “discredited the lighthouse keeper] Lally,” but goes on to say the govern-

ment’s official report stated that “a Canadian lighthouse had been attacked by a Japanese submarine,” which suggests that they took his report seriously. Then you confuse things by advocating the conspiracy theory advanced by “historian” Donald Graham (a lighthouse keeper) that the “alleged enemy attack at Estevan Point was bogus,” and was staged by the Canadian government to justify moving Japanese-Canadians who lived in B.C. into internment camps.

That scenario is one of several discredited conspiracy theories about the shelling of Estevan Point lighthouse. You didn’t mention the other common one which suggests the Canadian government transferred to have two American warships shell Estevan Point lighthouse so Prime Minister Mackenzie King would have extra justification to bring in national conscription, which was widely opposed in Quebec.

Both theories have been dismissed by many reputable military historians, as well as the U.S. and Canadian governments, and further rendered incorrect with the recent publication of the official log of Japanese Type B-1 submarine I-26 which includes an entry describing the attack on the Hesquiat radio station near Estevan Point lighthouse using the submarine’s 140 mm deck gun.

One month earlier the Japanese navy had attacked Alaska and occupied two islands in the Aleutians, and Japanese submarines had made sporadic attacks on shipping and coastal installations all along the Pacific Coast, including the torpedoing of two ships off Cape Flattery and the shelling of a radio direction finding station at Astoria, Oregon.

Six months before the Hesquiat radio station at Estevan Point lighthouse was attacked 2,000 outnumbered and poorly trained Canadian troops had fought a bloody battle against the
D

Espite the fact that I don’t smoke pot—because if I do I will be asleep in approximately three minutes—I have long advocated complete legalization for libertarian reasons but also because the criminal law is essentially unenforceable.

The original medical marijuana regulations allowed people to buy from a single supplier or grow their own or designate a grower. While the system was far from perfect, and found to be unconstitutional, it had the advantage of regulating with a very light hand. But, oh Heaven, there was “leakage.” Medical pot was not always only used by medical users. Yikes.

Medical pot was not always only used by medical users. Yikes. So Health Canada came up with a regulatory scheme which was going to licence grower/distributors and put the users and their growers out of business. Enter Big Green and a bunch of lijiscence grower/distributors and put the users and their growers out of business. Enter Big Green and a bunch of licenses.

The promoters made a lot of money using a simple story: there were 45,000 medical pot users in Canada (projected to grow to 450,000 users in a decade) who each used about 3 grams a day and who would have no choice but to pay between $8 and $15 a gram for their “medicine.” You do the math.

To my not very great surprise, people used to paying $80 to $85.00 a gram did not rush to sign up. And, very quickly, at least in Vancouver, pot shops—for registered users only of course—began to spring up. Becoming a registered user was not tough. As the 5th Estate guy discovered, telling a naturapath a charming story about stress and sleep disturbance over Skype gets you your registration. At which point you are free to buy. (I note the 5th Estate did not ask the pot shop owners where they were getting their pot—which is a rather good question because it is certainly not from the licenced growers as they are not allowed to sell except by mail order.)

The problem is that the boffins at Health Canada have not quite figured out that their regulations are assuming a world which does not exist. First, they assume that people want to smoke “legal pot.” That might be true if police forces were in the habit of kicking down doors to arrest people smoking pot at home but, I fear, that hasn’t happened in years. (It may occasionally occur as a means of harassment but “probable cause” is usually sufficient to beat the charges.)

Second, the boffins assumed that “medical marijuana” would somehow be policed by the medical profession. While it is a happy thought, all that is needed are a few doctors, nurse practitioners and naturapaths who think pot is just fine for what ails you, to render the “policing” function meaningless. Given that there is very little evidence either way as to potential medical efficacy, putting the burden of policing on the medical profession was a non-starter from the get go.

Third, the idea of centralizing growing and distribution of a relatively easy to grow plant in the hands of a group of entrepreneurs was a forlorn hope.

The only way that the regulations—if they ever manage to survive judicial scrutiny—will work is if Health Canada can somehow convince the Vancouver (and many other city police departments) to enforce the Criminal Code in the face of wide spread public opposition.

Health Canada’s regulations will only work if the cost of “illegal medical marijuana” is, by draconian enforcement, raised to the point where the legal alternative is cheaper. Which would mean a level of enforcement which far exceeds the scale of enforcement we saw in the 1990s. Which is not going to happen.

Health Canada is in way over its head. Now the law is in disrepute with the public and, more importantly, the police, Crown and judges.

As anyone who has lived in Vancouver knows, the Vancouver Police Department has better things to do than bust dispensaries. Plus, given the injunction halting enforcement of the Health Canada regs, it is not obvious what they would bust the dispensaries for that would have a chance of getting past the Crown. But even if they did bust the dispensary and even if the Crown brought charges, it is pretty difficult to see how a judge could find a person guilty who was selling to a registered user.

Why would Ms. Smith give up her little personal grow-op only to buy her arthritis pain reliever at five times the price from clever marketers?

‘The medical marijuana regulatory scheme interests me as a grand example of government getting something entirely wrong,” says Jay Currie, author of Start & Run a Marijuana Dispensary or Pot Shop: Wherever it is Legal! (Self-Counsel Press $21.95). Here is Currie’s response to the Health Canada by the boffins, who made sales of marijuana far more complicated than sales of booze, which wreak far more havoc on our society.

978-1770402621

Why would Ms. Smith give up her little personal grow-op only to buy her arthritis pain reliever at five times the price from clever marketers?

As anyone who has lived in Vancouver knows, the Vancouver Police Department has better things to do than bust dispensaries. Plus, given the injunction halting enforcement of the Health Canada regs, it is not obvious what they would bust the dispensaries for that would have a chance of getting past the Crown. But even if they did bust the dispensary and even if the Crown brought charges, it is pretty difficult to see how a judge could find a person guilty who was selling to a registered user.

The problem is that the boffins at Health Canada have not quite figured out that their regulations are assuming a world which does not exist. First, they assume that people want to smoke “legal pot.” That might be true if police forces were in the habit of kicking down doors to arrest people smoking pot at home but, I fear, that hasn’t happened in years. (It may occasionally occur as a means of harassment but “probable cause” is usually sufficient to beat the charges.)

Second, the boffins assumed that “medical marijuana” would somehow be policed by the medical profession. While it is a happy thought, all that is needed are a few doctors, nurse practitioners and naturapaths who think pot is just fine for what ails you, to render the “policing” function meaningless. Given that there is very little evidence either way as to potential medical efficacy, putting the burden of policing on the medical profession was a non-starter from the get go.

Third, the idea of centralizing growing and distribution of a relatively easy to grow plant in the hands of a group of entrepreneurs was a forlorn hope.

The only way that the regulations—if they ever manage to survive judicial scrutiny—will work is if Health Canada can somehow convince the Vancouver (and many other city police departments) to enforce the Criminal Code in the face of wide spread public opposition.

Health Canada’s regulations will only work if the cost of “illegal medical marijuana” is, by draconian enforcement, raised to the point where the legal alternative is cheaper. Which would mean a level of enforcement which far exceeds the scale of enforcement we saw in the 1990s. Which is not going to happen.

Health Canada is in way over its head. Now the law is in disrepute with the public and, more importantly, the police, Crown and judges.
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