Eden Robinson kicks off her new trilogy with a novel that combines magic realism with brutal realism, reviewed by David Stouck.

See page 13

Andrew Struthers on the sacred herb versus the devil’s weed.

PAGE 15

Jordan Abel wins $65,000 Griffin Poetry Prize for Injun.

PAGE 37

Nikki Tate on the anxious lives of rock-climbing teens.

PAGE 31

Ron Norman’s Slouching Towards Innocence, a novel of non-stop scandals in B.C. politics.

PAGE 18

TRICKSTER COLUMBIA

The Coastal Lives of Working Women P.22-23
Coming November 2017 from the New York Times bestselling author of The Hidden Life of Trees

THE INNER LIFE OF ANIMALS
Love, Grief, and Compassion—Surprising Observations of a Hidden World

PETER WOHLLEBEN
Foreword by JEFFREY MOUSSAIEFF MASSON
978-1-77164-301-6
HC • $29.95
NOVEMBER 2017

“Surprising, humbling, and filled with delight.”
SY MONTGOMERY, author of The Soul of an Octopus
Moonlight, the indie movie that won best picture at the Oscars, was directly inspired by a Canadian magazine from B.C.

Soon after his Oscar win, the director of Moonlight, Barry Jenkins held up a copy of HOBO magazine—featuring Isabelle Huppert on its cover—saying he and cinematographer James Laxton had been "obsessed" with HOBO since their college days.

HOBO is a high fashion-meets-environmentalism magazine founded on a chairlift in Whistler in 2000. Although the editorial office is currently in Paris, the family's address in Canada for twenty-five years has been Lasqueti Island. HOBO is owned and published by Christian Dogimont, his wife and his son.

Although the high-end magazine is distributed in twelve countries, mostly in Europe, the content is largely West Coast Canadian. "The spirit is definitely West Coast," says Dogimont. Because the contributors are worldwide, often HOBO does not meet the 65% Canadian content rules required for Canadian government support or eligibility for Canadian magazine awards. "Our readers around the world see HOBO as a Canadian magazine—totally," Dogimont says.

HOBO, OSCARS & LASQUETI

HELLENISTIC-WRITER KATJA PANTzar, FORMERLY associate editor of BC BookWorld, credits unhappiness in B.C. for her newfound literary success.

Her upcoming book, *The Magic of Sisu: In search of courage, strength and happiness the Finnish way*, will be published in the U.K. in April of 2018, together with Penguin Random House USA’s non-fiction imprint TarcherPerigee in North America. Reprint rights have already been sold to China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Kosovo, Poland, Russia, and Spain.

Pantzar says the book arose from her responses to Canada where “the consumerist and materially obsessed culture left her feeling empty and unhappy.” When she received treatment for depression in her mid-20s, medical practitioners simply prescribed medication and sleeping pills, no thought was given to her lifestyle.

After moving to Finland, Katja discovered sisu: the Finnish approach to well-being defined by a special kind of resilience, grit and courage. She embraced sisu and experienced a dramatic turn-around in her health and happiness. Exercise (as simple as riding her bike to work), the Nordic diet, spending time in nature, swimming, and having a more courageous outlook on her world transformed Pantzar’s life.

She is previously the author of three guidebooks: *The Hip Guide to Helsinki*, *Helsinki by Light* and *100 Things to Do in Helsinki*.

**HOBO**

**PUBLISHER:** Sandhill Book Marketing/Polyglot Publishing $14.95

**EDITOR:** Christian Dogimont

**DESIGN:** Barry Peterson, Laura Sawchuk

**PROOFREADERS:** Wendy Akimov, Tara Twigg

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Associate Editor:

Beverly Cramp
TURN THE PAGE ON NEW FALL BOOKS

The Georgia Straight
A 50th Anniversary Celebration
Doug Barti and Dan McLeod
Brings together over 100 of the Straight’s iconic covers, along with short essays, insider details and contributor reflections, putting each issue into its historical context.
RMB / Rocky Mountain Books | 840 pgs

Days of Rivers Past
Reflections on British Columbia’s Recreational Steelhead Fishery
Robert S. Hueston
Personal and professional thoughts on some of BC’s iconic steelhead rivers and the possible futures they face in an era of climate change.
RMB / Rocky Mountain Books | 235 pgs | $20.95 ebook

At Home in Nature
A Life of Unknown Mountains and Deep Wilderness
Bob Wood
One family’s story of owning youthful ideals and a passion for the outdoors in an off-grid homestead in the rugged landscapes of BC’s Coast Mountains.
RMB / Rocky Mountain Books | 225 pgs | $18.99 ebook

Carbon Play
The Carbon Observations of a Carbon Pioneer
Robert William Falls
An insider’s look at the world of international negotiations, technology and diplomacy relating to the carbon industry, environmental management and climate mitigation.
RMB / Rocky Mountain Books | 225 pgs | $19.99 ebook

Nuptse and Lhotse
Go to the West Coast
Joeys Bosung
A colourful, imaginative story for adventurers of all ages that dream of scaling peaks on a beach made of stars at the edge of the world.
RMB / Rocky Mountain Books | 88 hrs | 150 pgs

First, We Brunch
Recipes and Stories from Victoria’s Best-Loved Breakfast Joints
Rebecca Wellman
Victoria is the brunch capital of Canada and with more than 60 recipes from city’s most celebrated eateries, this guide will point you towards the breakfast you’re craving.
TealWood Press | 320 hrs | $12.99 ebook

As a Dog Thinketh
Daily Words of Wisdom for Dog People
Monique Anstee
Confused by your canine? Monique Anstee, top dog trainer and owner of the Naughty Dog, provides daily reflections, guidance, and sound advice to improve your relationship with your pet.
TealWood Press | 320 hrs | $12.99 ebook

The Haunting of Vancouver Island
Supernatural Encounters with the Other Side
Shane Eide
A compelling collection of investigative pieces exploring 25 tales of the supernatural and local lore from the south end to the north of Vancouver Island.
TealWood Press | 320 hrs | $17.94 ebook

Your Heart is the Size of Your Fist
A Doctor Reflects on Ten Years at a Refugee Clinic
Martina Scholten, MD
Candid and moving true stories by a Vancouver doctor detailing her efforts to provide quality healthcare for a refugee family during their first year in Canada.
RMB / Rocky Mountain Books | 190 hrs | 170 pgs

The Mighty Hughes
From Pintos Lawyer to Western Canada’s Moral Compass
Craig Miller
The remarkable story of Ted Hughes, the former Saskatchewan judge who became BC’s first conflict of interest commissioner.
Heritage House | 320 hrs | 220 pgs ebook

Opportunity Knox
Twenty-Five Years of Award-Winning Humour Writing
Jack Knox
Jack Knox rifles on the realities of life in the new century in this hilarious collection of best-loved humour columns from the Victoria Times Colonist.
Heritage House | 99.95 | $16.99 ebook

Out of Concealment
Female Supernatural Detective of Haida Gwaii
Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson
Amazing scenes from the Haida oral tradition is brought to life in this visually striking book by Haida performing artist Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson.
Heritage House | $25.95

The Spitfire Luck of Skeets Ogilvie
From the Battle of Britain to the Great Escape
Keith C. Ogilvie
The true story of a young Canadian pilot in the Second World War who becomes one of a handful of flyers to survive the Great Escape of March 1944.
Heritage House | $22.95 pgs
A author and anti-fish farm researcher Alexandra Morton is being sued by big business again—this time for using a spoon to collect a sample of bird poop from a buoy belonging to Marine Harvest.

The company is claiming Morton adversely harmed the integrity of the farm’s anchoring system by touching a yellow, steel buoy when she collected a biological sample during a visit she made to the fish farm with approximately sixty members of the local First Nation. The tribe has consistently voiced objection to the presence of the fish farm on their traditional territory.

The suit was first launched against Morton & John Picnicface.

Evany Rosen: founding member of comedy troupe Picnicface.

**We Are Not Making This Up**

Morton claims 87% of the juvenile salmon leaving a salmon farm buoy, on which activists are trying to prevent Canada from allowing the fish farming industry to continue putting piscine reovirus-infected Atlantic salmon into the Pacific. Morton claims 87% of the juvenile salmon leaving the area are infected with sea lice and “most will not survive.”
ISLAND OF THE BLUE FOXES
Disaster and Triumph on Bering's Great Voyage to Alaska
Award-winning author Stephen R. Bown tells an epic tale of shipwreck and survival from the Age of Sail.
hardcover · 6” × 9” · 288 pages · b&w maps and illustrations · October · 978-1-77162-161-8

THE WORLD’S MOST TRAVELLED MAN
A Twenty-Three-Year Odyssey to and through Every Country on the Planet
In 1990, Mike Spencer Bown began a two-decade journey that would take him through each of the world’s 195 countries.
MEMOIR/TRAVEL | $29.95
hardcover · 6” × 9” · 384 pages · October · 978-1-77162-142-7

SCULPTURE IN CANADA
A History
In this groundbreaking work, Maria Tippett offers an authoritative survey of sculpture’s coming of age in Canada.
ART | $39.95
hardcover · 8½” × 11” · 272 pages · 130 colour photographs · November · 978-1-77162-093-2

TRUE CONFESSIONS FROM THE NINTH CONCESSION
A funny and affectionate chronicle of rural Canadian life written by Harrowsmith columnist Dan Needles, author of the Wingfield Farm series, winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and member of the Order of Canada. HUMOUR | $22.95
PAPERBACK, FRENCH FLAPS | 6” × 9” · 240 pages · Available now · 978-1-77162-169-4

COOKING WITH THE WOLFMAN
Indigenous Fusion
Chef David Wolfman and his wife, Marlene Finn, combine classic cooking techniques with traditional ingredients in their favourite recipes. COOKING | $39.95
PAPERBACK | 6” × 10” · 286 pages · 75 colour photographs · October · 978-1-77162-163-2

THE WHITE ANGEL
Award winning writer John MacLachlan Gray has written a novel based on the true story of the 1924 murder of Janet Smith in Vancouver—a city at the edge of the empire, still reeling from the Great War with a barely functioning police department and a thriving criminal class.
FICTION | $29.95
hardcover · 6” × 9” · 296 pages · Available now · 978-1-77162-146-5

SPINDrift
A Canadian Book of the Sea
This salt-soaked anthology, edited by Michael L. Hadley and Anita Hadley, celebrates our relationship with the three seas that frame our country. It features 170 pieces of writing from over 130 of Canada’s most significant literary voices.
CANADIANA | $36.95
hardcover · 6” × 9” · 360 pages · b&w illustrations · Available now · 978-1-77162-173-1

COLLECTED TARTS AND OTHER INDELICACIES
A juicy and much-anticipated volume from humour columnist Tabatha Southey, who understands the psychological struggles of shadowy Russian pre-traffic signalizers, records the PB benefits of puppy throwing and has deeply considered the moral quandaries presented by sea slug prunes.
HUMOUR | $24.95
PAPERBACK · 6” × 9” · 352 pages · September · 978-1-77162-167-0

THE CINDERELLA CAMPAIGN
First Canadian Army and the Battles for the Channel Ports
In the twelfth installment of the bestselling Canadian Battle Series, Mark Zuehlke tells the story of the First Canadian Army and how they opened the way to Allied victory in World War II.
MILITARY HISTORY | $37.95
hardcover · 6” × 9¼” · 498 pages · b&w photos and maps · November · 978-1-77162-089-5

DOUGLAS & McINTYRE
Available in fine bookstores across the country
A is for Alexander

A COW- EYED GODDESS STEALS A NYMPH’S tongue. Steering wheels are taken over by octopi. Susan Alexander’s poems in The Dance Floor Tilts (Thistledown $17.95) are derived from eclectic experiences such as working as a chambermaid, a CBC Radio journalist, at a boutique investment firm and being a stay-at-home mom. The Bowen Islander wrote her first novel, $17.95) are derived from eclectic experiences such as working as a chambermaid, a CBC Radio journalist, at a boutique investment firm and being a stay-at-home mom. The Bowen Islander wrote her first novel, a 2015 Vancouver Writers’ Festival Contest. 978-1-77187-152-5

B is for Basran

“IT WAS A FASCINATING NIGHT,” says Gurjinder Basran of Delta is making the rounds. After reading at the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, she’s appearing at Word Vancouver (Sept. 19), Victoria Festival of Authors (Sept. 27), Whistler Writers Festival (Oct. 12) and Vancouver Writers’ Festival (Oct. 16) promoting her second novel, Someone You Love is Gone (Viking $24.95), described as a tale of love and heartbreak that crosses continents and spans generations.

C is for Cain

FOUR YEARS AGO, KRISsy MATHews Disappeared. When she returns it is through the doors of her hometown’s hospital with a lifeless child in her arms and a man she refers to as her husband. He is charged with kidnapping and Krissy is dealing with the Stockholm syndrome that developed from the twisted abuse she suffered while isolated in a mountain cabin experiencing what she believed to be true love. That’s the gist of Shelby Cain’s debut novel, Mountain Girl (Oolichan $22.95). Cain lives in Fernie.

D is for Derrickson

IN THE RECONCILIATION MANIFESTO (Lorimer $22.95), Arthur Manuel with Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson, former Chief of the Westbank First Nation near Kelowna, challenge readers to believe about their relationship with Indigenous Peoples and the steps that are needed to place this relationship on a healthy and honourable footing. The preface is by Naomi Klein.

E is for Ekstasis

OFFICIALLY, EKSTASIS Editions was founded by Richard Olafson in 1982 in the basement of the now-defunct Gallery Untitled on Government Street in Victoria. That’s where he printed his own first book, Blood of the Moon, on a 1250 Multilith press. Equally the birthplace of Ekstasis was the Breezy Bay Farm Bed ‘n’ Breakfast on Saturna Island, still very much in business. The caretaker in the early 1970s was Richard Olafson—now marking his 35th anniversary as a publisher.

F is for Fralie

WITH A FOREWORD BY DOUGLAS COVPAND, and an introduction by Shelley Fralie, research librarian Kate Bird presents 149 photos from the Vancouver Sun archives for Vancouver in the Seventies: Photos from a Decade That Changed the City (Greystone $20.95), featuring representative images from the era as well as pivotal moments in the city’s history such as the Gastown Riot and the founding of Greenpeace. Personalities range from a five-year-old Justin Trudeau to the iconic Chief Dan George. 978-1-77194-245-6

G is for Griffiths

ONE OF THE UNSUNG HEROES OF B.C. literature, Ernest Hekkanen is calling it quits. The final issue of The New Orphic Review will appear this fall. With his wife Margrith, Hekkanen began the biannual journal of fiction, poetry, reviews and essays in 1998 when they had just turned fifty-one. “To create a product of no obvious practical value,” he writes in the penultimate issue, “and for which there would be an extremely limited market, if any at all, seemed to me an act of defiance worth pouring some hard-earned cash into.” They have kept their Nelson-based publication going for forty issues without financial assistance from any level of government.

Margrith and Ernest Hekkanen
called House of Blazes, from the powerful Healey brothers, Levi Hayes ends up in lock-up when the great earthquake of 1906 hits. Now he must escape the collapsing building and burning city while avoiding the Healey’s revenge, and also get the gold coins.

MICHAEL LAYLAND

Trained as an officer and mapmaker in the Royal Engineers. As a follow-up to his prizewinning The Land of Heart’s Delight: Early Maps and Charts of Vancouver Island (Touchwood, 2013), A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island (Touchwood $39.95) digs more deeply into the story of the men who explored the shape of Vancouver Island and discusses some of the mysteries yet to be resolved.

FOR CHEESE-LOVING VEGANS WHO THOUGHT they had to give it up or resort to unappetizing non-dairy ‘cheeses’, there’s now cultured plant-based cheese and Karen McAthy’s Plant-Based Cheesemaking (New Society $29.99). It contains recipes and encourages experimentation for beginners and foodies, making a distinction between ‘cheese’ and ‘cheeze.’ Offerings include walnut ricotta cheese, seed cream cheese, coconut kefir curd, almond curd feta, cumin seed cashew and coconut gouda. McAthy was born and raised in Alert Bay to parents who came from agricultural backgrounds.
SELF-STYLED MYSTICAL COUNSELOR
Linda Nardelli reveals “the inherent wisdom and spiritual essence within all our felt-senses and life experiences” in Mystical Intimacy: Entering into a Conscious Relationship with Your Spirit and Human Nature (Agio $24.99). The book discusses the teachings of Masiandia, “a group soul comprised of seven spirits who are here to help us remember who we are. They are here to help us strengthen our self-belief, challenge our self-deceptions, and teach us how to trust our soul evolution.”

IN REVERIES OF A SOLITARY BIKER (Talonbooks $16.95), Catriona Strang’s poetryponders the difficulties of living an anti-capitalist life; the invisibility of much of women’s labour; and the complexities of sustainability as she cycles around Vancouver. These poems reference and pay homage to Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s unfinished 1776 manuscript of obsession, Reveries of the Solitary Walker. With cycling, Strang finds it particularly conducive to slow, non-deliberate thinking. She lives in Vancouver and has publicly performed parts of Reveries of a Solitary Biker with clarinetist François Houle.

KAY STEWART’S DEBUT NOVEL—FEATURING RCMP Constable Danutia Dranchuk—A Deadly Little List (2006), was undertaken as a writing experiment with her husband Chris Bullock. “Our marriage survived that experiment,” she says. After that foray, Stewart was the sole author of her second police procedural, Sitting Lady Sutra (2011) and back again with her husband for Unholy Rites (2013). Now the Victoria-based duo have produced Tour de Mort: A Danutia Dranchuk Mystery (Friesen Press $20.99). Danutia Dranchuk is now an RCMP Corporal, and enjoying a thousand-kilometre cycle ride to raise funds to fight childhood cancer. But soon enough, murder hits the cyclists.

LYDIA KWA’S MAGIC-REALIST NOVEL Oracle Bone (Arsenal Pulp Press $19.95) subverts traditional tropes of Chinese mythology to tell a tale of greed, faith, and female empowerment. The story takes place in seventh-century China, a time of ghosts, martial arts, magic, fox spirits and demons. Empress Wu Zhao’s evil-minded lover Xie becomes obsessed with finding and possessing a magic object called the oracle bone that will bestow immortal powers on him. But blocking his way to the bone, is Qilan, an eccentric Daoist nun. Along the way, the many secrets and powers of the magic bone are revealed. Lydia Kwa works in Vancouver as a writer and psychologist. Her The Walking Boy (Key Porter, 2007) was shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize in 2008.

WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE NATURAL Eclectic: A Design Aesthetic Inspired by Nature (Figure 1 $42.95), Heather Ross added author to the list of her career accomplishments: artist, photographer and stylist. Ross also owns a décor boutique at 2170 Fir Street in Vancouver, known for its mixture of the new and the found with the natural. Her aesthetic has been called “coastal chic” and her colour palette described as “where the sea meets the shore.”

The Natural Eclectic features over 300 of her photographs that illustrate Ross’s approach to decorating, which is inspired by her West Coast upbringing and two years spent living and antiquing in Paris.

Heather Ross is a regular contributor to House & Home and Western Living magazines. She has been nominated for national magazine awards and her art has been placed in feature films.

9 BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 2017
Simon Paradis learned how to live in a wheelchair and re-learned how to play the guitar after his brain and spinal cord injury.
The Life and Art of Arthur Pitts
by Kerry Mason. Foreword by Daniel Francis
978-1-896949-62-8 | 144 pages | $35.95 | 110 colour images

Arthur Pitts (1889-1972) born in the UK, pursued a career of art and adventure; first in South Africa, then Canada, where he traveled over 4,000 miles in British Columbia and Alaska, producing a large body of watercolours focusing on Coast Salish, Nan-Cha-Nahil, Keweenaski/Salish, Tlingit, Haida and Kunnata Pitt Nations. His story includes life as an artist in Vancouver in the 20th & 30s. He lived in Saanichton for over 30 years. He worked at the Royal BC Museum and the Glenbow Museum.

"The remarkable life and work of Arthur Pitts will be welcomed by the (Saanich) people, and by many others in the Pacific Northwest, including cultural historians and ethnographers." – Richard Mackie, Editor, The Ormsby Review.

Kerry Mason is an art historian, author, curator and art consultant who lectures at the University of Victoria.

Euclid’s Orchard & Other Essays
Theresa Kishkan
978-1-896949-63-5 | 168 pages | $22.95

"From the first sentences of Euclid’s Orchard it is clear that Theresa Kishkan is a writer to be trusted." – Eve Joseph.

"Kishkan is our finest essayist." – Harold Rhenisch.

"Beautifully designed and well-researched series." – The Ormsby Review.

The 10th and last book in the remarkable Unheralded Artists of BC series!
Claiming the Land
British Columbia and the Making of a New El Dorado
Daniel Marshall

Marshall focuses on the 1858 Fraser River gold rush and its little-understood battle between the California mining culture and that of the First Nations, with the British struggling to keep the peace — resulting in the formal inauguration of colonialism, native reserves and the expansion of Canada to B.C. With 50 photos & maps.
978-1-55380-512-0 (EBOOK)  978-1-55380-511-3       (PRINT)  300 pp  $24.95

Song of Batoche
Maia Caron
This novel from a Métis author tells the story of the Riel resistance on the Saskatchewan (1885) largely through the eyes of the Métis women involved, including Madeleine Dumont and Marguerite Riel.
978-1-55380-499-4 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-500-7 (EBOOK)  376 pp  $18.95

Emily Patterson
The Heroic Life of a Milltown Nurse
Lisa Anne Smith
A biography of the first nurse in Western Canada, whose medical skills earned her great recognition around the 19th-century sawmilling communities of Hastings Mill and Moodyville. With 30 b&w photos.
978-1-55380-506-9 (EBOOK)  240 pp  $21.95

Narrow Bridge
Barbara Pelman
These poems, Barbara Pelman’s third collection, explore the bridges — real and metaphoric — that we build to overcome our separateness from one another.
978-1-55380-508-3 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-509-0 (EBOOK)  92 pp  $15.95

Louis Riel
Let Justice Be Done
David Doyle
In this imaginative re-enactment, Riel is finally given the opportunity to respond to his conviction for treason, offering his side of the story at Batoche and Red River so as to clear his name. With 16 b&w photos.
978-1-55380-496-3 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-497-0 (EBOOK)  206 pp  $24.95

Finding John Rae
Alice Jane Hamilton
Hamilton follows Rae as he discovers the missing link to the Northwest Passage and evidence of cannibalism within the Franklin Expedition — sending shockwaves throughout Victorian England.
978-1-55380-481-9 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-482-6 (EBOOK)  228 pp  $21.95

Collecting Silence
Ulrike Narwani
In this moving debut volume of poetry, Narwani travels from Canada to the Baltics and then to Asia to show how, in silence, our deepest experiences talk to us in a “language we all know without speaking.”
978-1-55380-487-1 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-488-8 (EBOOK)  94 pp  $15.95

FOR YOUNG READERS

Stealth of the Ninja
Philip Roy
En route to Japan in his homemade submarine, Al finds his courage and loyalty dramatically tested in the 2011 tsunami that has Fukushima and thousands of people in its path.
978-1-55380-490-1 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-491-8 (EBOOK)  210 pp  $11.95

The Nor’Wester
David Starr
A Scottish boy flees to Canada, where he is taken on by the North West Company and sent to join Simon Fraser on his epic 1808 journey to the sea — facing death, danger and treason along the way.
978-1-55380-492-2 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-494-9 (EBOOK)  214 pp  $11.95
Son of a Trickster by Eden Robinson (Penguin Random House $32.00)

BY DAVID STOUCK

I n 1997 a book of remarkable short stories by a young Haisla/Heiltsuk woman came across my desk. It had been selected as Editor’s Choice and Notable Book of the Year by The New York Times. That book was Traplines (1996) and its author was Eden Robinson from the village of Kitsumaat. Of the four stories in that collection, “Queen of the North” struck me as one of the best Canadian short stories ever written. Its theme was dark—violence to children that was rooted in the residential school system—but the author’s touch was light, and its author was

Son of a Trickster by Eden Robinson (Penguin Random House $32.00)

The Incredible Deftness of Being

From brutal realism to magic realism, Eden Robinson poses a connection between drugs and mythology.

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The Incredible Deftness of Being

From brutal realism to magic realism, Eden Robinson poses a connection between drugs and mythology.
A HAUNTING TALE OF LOVE OUTSIDE TIME

“A beautiful, haunting story of one family, spanning generations and continents, as they face life’s inevitable losses, struggle with grief, and reach for redemption.”

—SHILPI SOMAYA GOWDA, New York Times bestselling author of Secret Daughter and The Golden Son

“A haunting story of one family, spanning generations and continents, as they face life’s inevitable losses, struggle with grief, and reach for redemption.”

—ALISSA YORK, author of Fauna and The Naturalist

The Sacred Herb / The Devil’s Weed
(New Star, $19)
by Andrew Struthers

Informative and even enlightening, but above all, a hilarious look at a humble plant that has entertained, inspired, and occasionally terrified so many for so long. Andrew Struthers directs his “brilliant madness” towards the ambivalent nature of marijuana, once the target of “reefer madness” hysteria and now available for quasi–legal purchase.

The Promise of Paradise: Utopian Communities in British Columbia
(Harbour Publishing, $24.95)
by Andrew Scott

Andrew Scott delves into the dramatic stories of utopian and intentional settlement attempts over the past 150 years of B.C. history. These fascinating, but often doomed, communities included Doukhobor farmers, Finnish coal miners, Quakers and hippies. While most discovered hardship, disillusionment and failure, new groups sprang up—and continue to spring up—to take their place.

Mapping My Way Home: A Gitxsan History
(Creekstone Press, $29.95)
by Neil J. Sterritt

Mapping My Way Home traces the journeys of Europeans who came to take advantage of the opportunities at the junction of the Skeena and Bulkley rivers. Gitxsan leader Neil Sterritt shares the stories of his people, stories both ancient and recent, to illustrate their resilience when faced with the challenges the newcomers brought. Winner of the 2017 Haig-Brown regional book prize.

Medicine Unbundled: A Journey through the Minefields of Indigenous Health Care
(Heritage House, $22.95)
by Gary Geddes

Gary Geddes turns his investigative lens across Canada to interview Indigenous elders willing to share their experiences of segregated health care, including their treatment in the “Indian hospitals” that existed from coast to coast for over half a century. A shocking exposé of the dark history and legacy of segregated Indigenous health care in Canada.

“Grief has the power to remake us, and for Simran and her mother, it proves truly transformative, blurring the lines between self and other, home and history—even life and death.”

—ALISSA YORK, author of Fauna and The Naturalist

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*selected by Alan Twigg
MARIJUANA CAN BE DANGEROUS AND JOYOUS. ANYONE TELLING YOU MARIJUANA IS ONE THING, AND NOT THE OTHER, IS A LIAR.

AND, YES, IT CAN ALSO BE MEDICINAL FOR SOME. MUCH LIKE ALCOHOL, EXCEPT THE DEATH RATES AND SOCIAL COSTS HAVE BEEN FAR LESS.

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THE TRUTH, MY FRIEND, IS BRILLIANTLY PROVIDED IN ANDREW STRUTHERS' HILARIOUS, DUALISTIC, YING/YANGISH, JAMES JOYCEAN, EXPERT COMPILETION OF TWO MANUSCRIPTS SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED, THE SACRED HERB AND THE DEVIL'S WEED.

ONE HALF OF THIS UPSIDE-DOWN 'DOUBLE PAPERBACK' AFFORDS A SCINTILLATING DISTILLATION OF MARIJUANA-INDUCED MISADVENTURES GATHERED FROM STRUTHERS' ACQUAINTANCES AND HIS FACEBOOK GROUP OF INFORMATION GATHERED FROM A NEW STAR (2014). PEOPLE IN ONTARIO WOULD BE THOROUGHLY MYSTERIFIED IF THIS STUFF EVER REACHED THEM. AFTER A CARNIVAL RIDE OF COMEDY, HERE'S WHERE HE ENDS UP:

"THE OFFICIAL STORY OF THE new Liberal government is that after a decade of Conservatism we're finally heading back to the future. Yet the more things change, the more they stay in-sane. When I began to smoke pot in 1978 Allen was on the big screen and Trudeau was Prime Minister. Forty years later, Allen is on the big screen and Trudeau is Prime Minister. But there's hope. The new Allen is by Vonzoreen genius Neil Blomkamp and the new Trudeau is my pot dealer.

"They say the dealer is not your friend, even when he's a long-haired shirtless feminist, and that might finally be true this time because pot's greatest power was helping us think outside the box. But now it will become the box, a closed system like capitalism, which seemed like such a good idea when it made us all rich, but now it has made us all cogis in a monstrous water-boiling machine that figures out with computers how much stress will kill you then backs of the screws till you can pay your bills.

"New Trudeau promised to legalize marijuana for his surgical hand, and claims he has a plan for pot rather than just a schedule to get his old bedroom back. Meanwhile, a $5-billion-dollar industry by the Cannabis Growers of Canada claims pot is a $5-billion-dollar industry, and if legalized would provide $1.5 billion in tax revenue. But all of this is beside the point. Most Canadians can't wait for pot to be legalized so that they'll never have to read another goddamned editorial on the subject.

"One cloud on the horizon is that along with legalization will come Walmart, and the dollars that keep every small town in the B.C. interior afloat right now will suddenly dry up. Twenty-five thousand people are presently employed there just to trim cola. If the jobs end up at Walmart all those mom-and-pop grow-ops will end up at a corner store adapts when Save-ON-Foods opens down the street, by vanishing with-out a trace.

"I don't doubt Trudeau's heart is in the right place, but his head looks a lot more like his mom's than his dad's which means sooner or later he'll be partying with the Rolling Stones. So it's hard to have faith in his vague plan to unleash legalized pot on Alberta, a province that smokes less than half the herb B.C. burns.

"Of course, I'm not suggesting Albertans are stupid. I'm going to prove it with science. You see, I once moved from Medicine Hat to Victoria and found that my hometown of Victoria has the highest average IQ in the country, while Malcolm Lowry's hometown of Edmonton ranks eighth..."

AND SO IT GROWS. THIS IS A RAUCOUSLY BRITISH COLOMBIAN MASTERPIECE THAT MALCOLM LOWRY WOULD HAVE ENJOYED IF HE HADN'T DRUNK HIMSELF TO SMITHERENS.

ANDREW STRUTHERS SAYS HE IS IN NO WAY BIASED TOWARDS LEGALIZING THE SACRED HERB EVEN THOUGH HE CONSIDERS IT TO BE COMPLETELY HARMLESS AND LOTS OF FUN "UNLESS YOU'RE THE LONELY STRANGER HE SMOKED LAST WEEK WITH A GUY CALLED DENNIS WHO HE MET AT A BUS STOP, THREE PUFFS OF WHICH NEARLY PUT HIM IN A WHEELCHAIR."
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Through the works of Canada’s artists—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, historical and contemporary—we are invited to see our country with new eyes.
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www.figure1publishing.com
With Ktunaxa characters and spirituality, Angie Abdou’s novel is dedicated to the late Richard Wagamese.

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, the original Mary was abandoned as a young girl by her parents. Having no family or community protectors, her job as a cleaner in the local hotel made her easy prey for unscrupulous customers. She and Elijah, a foreman at the mine, were unwittingly brought together by Elijah’s charitable work. They were star-crossed lovers, doomed from the start. Their spirits penetrate Eli’s consciousness, fill his dreams and carry him back to an earlier era, the memories flooding through him in raging waves. “Imagining all those Mary’s, at once different and at once the same makes me dizzy,” he says.

Describing Eli’s simultaneous experience of then and now, “the present-past present whiplash of lives buzzing by in the wrong direction,” is a technical challenge that Abdou handles skillfully.

At the same time, the interwoven Aboriginal and immigrant lives inject another challenge into Abdou’s creative process—that of cultural appropriation. This territory that has proved a minefield for writers, and adds a new dimension to the traditional anxiety of authorship.

In a prefatory note and again in her acknowledgements (the repetition testifies to her anxiety) Abdou establishes her awareness of the problem, makes clear her sensitivity to the subject, and explains her respectful handling of it. She acknowledges at the outset that the Ktunaxa people do not want their spirituality represented in fiction or used for profit. Accordingly, she does not reproduce the tribal wisdom transmitted to Mary by her mother “in the wrong direction,” Abdou sought permission for the use of the Ktunaxa name and language and land; she expresses gratitude to the Ktunaxa people who read the manuscript and to the Ktunaxa National Cultural liaison officer and to the Elders Advisory Council.

She found crucial inspiration in the advice that the late Ojibway writer, Richard Wagamese, gave in a lecture to a white audience: “You can’t undo the past. You don’t have to feel guilty about the past. You don’t even have to apologize for the past. All you have to do is say YES. Yes, this happened.” Those words brought her work into focus. She frames her novel, which is dedicated to Richard Wagamese, as her “yes.”

Angie Abdou lives in Fernie.
This cringe-worthy, 3 a.m. incident in Hawaii. The situation is dominantly, as surreptitiously as possible given the leafy canopy, a string of sunlight that peeked through the tree-shaded street, going in and out of the patches of car backs up in frustration behind it. I work at a communications agency that provides public affairs consulting (which is just a fancy way of saying government relations) so I have a general sense of how government works. Yet I found Norman’s behind-the-scenes glimpses into the inner workings of the legislature both fascinating and disturbing. Norman writes, “Malcolm tried to think of something he felt so strongly about that he would wake up with any amount of anxiety and incompetence via smartphone for the reader to non-stop scanning.”

The Widening Gyre. A race for the truth. A neophyte spin doctor stumbles upon anxiety and social ills in Victoria informative and entertaining. An ex-reporter, Norman has also spent more than a decade as a senior bureaucrat in B.C. politics, so he writes from a position of authority. "Commissionaires in white shirts, clipped black ties and white gloves provided the reader with a crash course in media relations. You’ll learn tricks politicians use to handle tough questions from reporters. For instance, the minister in charge of Veteran Affairs gets repeatedly a negative in his response—a classic no-no. Malcolm points out this rookie mistake, then teaches him what meek fellow who tip-toes around his ever-critical girlfriend. He is initially subservient, life happens. Norman writes, “Malcolm tried to think of something he felt so strongly about that he would wake up with any amount of anxiety and incompetence via smartphone for the reader to non-stop scanning.”

At least Ron Norman is in good company.

Jeremy Twigg is a graduate of UBC’s Creative Writing Program.
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How a climate scientist and suburban father cut his climate impact down to one-tenth the US average, and became happier because of it.

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“Peter writes with joy, infectious curiosity, and a hopeful enthusiasm that’s hard to resist.” — Katherine Martinko, TreeHugger

“Addressing both climate change helplessness and the meaning of everyday life, this book posits a personal, positive approach to environmental mindfulness.” — Foreword Reviews, 5 stars, August 2017

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JORDAN ABEL
Injun is a long poem about racism and the representation of Indigenous peoples. Composed of text found in western novels published between 1840 and 1950, Injun uses erasure, pastiche, and a focused poetics to create a visually striking response to the western genre.
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Combining text from government questionnaires and reports, lyric poetry, and photography, Prison Industrial Complex Explodes examines the possibility of a privatized prison system in Canada leading up to then Prime Minister Harper’s Conservative government passing the Anti-Terrorism Act, also known as Bill C-51.
978-1-77201-181-4 • $17.95 • 124 pages • Poetry

Wayside Sang
CECILY NICHOLSON
Wayside Sang concerns entwined migrations of Black- other diaspora coming to terms with fossil-fuel psyches in times of trauma and movement. This is a poetic account of economy travel on North American roadways, across the Peace and Ambassador bridges and through the Fleetway tunnel, above and beneath Great Lake rivers between nation states.
978-1-77201-182-1 • $16.95 • 96 pages • Poetry
Whether some approve or not, anniversary celebrations can energize citizens, according to reviewer Forrest D. Pass.

For instance, the cultural nationalism of the CBC and the Massey Commission dated from the 1950s, while many of the political hallmarks of modern Canadian identity—universal health insurance, or a colour-blind immigration policy, a precursor to modernization—were products of the early 1960s, not of 1967.

Hawthorn himself lived in Montreal during the Centennial year, and considering the reception and aftermath of the Centennial in Quebec, it is arguable that language politics would play a lesser role in national identity after 1967 than it had before. Before the Centennial year closed, René Levesque would form the Mouvement Souveraineté-Association, which in 1968 would become the Parti Québécois.

For more than a quarter-century to come, language and culture would be central to discussions of Canadian nationalism. Indeed, the celebration for the next major anniversary of Confederation, Canada 125 in 1992, was little more than an effort to shore up Canadian federalism in the wake of the failed Meech Lake and Charlottetown accords.

Major commemorations often inspire the revival and re-formulation of national myths, and Hawthorn occasionally falls into the myth-making trap. Yet he also acknowledges that not everyone was thrilled about the anniversary.

Chief Dan George of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (Burrard Inlet, North Vancouver) used the occasion of a Dominion Day address in Vancouver to lament the second-class status of Indigenous people in Canada.

With the benefit of a half-century’s hindsight, Canadians’ Centennial memories might seem a little quaint, but the excitement and optimism behind them were heartfelt.

Forrest D. Pass is a historian at the Canadian Museum of History. Originally from the Sunshine Coast, he writes on B.C. regionalism, Canadian nationalism, commemorations, and public history.
CASCADIENNES

Patriarchal power patterns are indented over centuries.

Books about trailblazing women are necessary stepping stones to progress.

Caroline Woodward applauds a new book about watery women.

review
Reconciliation begins with you,” says Chief Dr. Robert Joseph of the Gwawaenuk First Nation in Monique Gray Smith’s formidably executed new book, Speaking Our Truth. This simple maxim reinforces the purpose of the titular journey—one that is comprehensive in scope, interactive, and decidedly inclusive.

The book, which is divided into four sizeable chapters, explores the painful history of residential schools, investigates what reconciliation means, and identifies specific actions individuals can take.

As a mixed-heritage woman of Cree, Lakota and Scottish ancestry living in Victoria, Smith brings authenticity and passion to her role as author. Her previous books include Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience, which won the Burt Award for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Literature, and the board book My Heart Fills with Happiness, illustrated by Julie Flett, which won the Christie Harris Illustrated Children’s Literature Prize. She is also an international speaker who advocates for the well-being of Indigenous children. Smith infuses her conversational writing with encouraging expressions and takes care to explain the manner in which she interviewed various people. This transparent glimpse into the writing process underscores her humble, gracious tone.

The author supports all her assertions with documentation; the cumulative effect is unquestionably authentic and respectful. The author also describes the incredible resilience Indigenous peoples have shown since the Royal Proclamation of 1763. Smith explains that in residential schools, the ‘overall message was that traditional Indigenous ways of being were inferior to non-Indigenous ways’ and that ‘this contributed to shame and loss of language, culture, and pride.’ An interactive feature called Reflections—illustrated with a line drawing of a hand drum—lists probing questions, none of which have simple answers.

Non-indigenous readers, who empathize with this reframing of Canada’s history and are eager to take on a role in the reconciliation process, will embrace Smith’s use of the positive term ‘ally.’ As a package, the book offers a perfect framework for readers actively exploring Indigenous history and current issues. Welcoming, honest, and down to earth, Speaking Our Truth is the tool many Canadians have been waiting for.

—Excerpted from Jill Bryant’s starred review of Speaking Our Truth in the September issue of Quill & Quire

Reconciliation—the restoration and healing of a relationship. In Canada, this refers to the process taken on by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to revitalize the relationship between the citizens of Canada (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), as well as the Nation-to-Nation relationships with the Government of Canada.

“Absolutely necessary.” — Kirkus

“Calming, positive, and serenely affirmative.” — Kirkus

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A foundational picture book about building relationships, fostering empathy, and encouraging respect between peers, starting with our littlest people.

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O

ICK UPON A TIME

A ferry went up and down the lakes of a splendid valley, collecting fresh cherries, peaches, apples and vegetables from hamlets with names like Renata, Deer Park, Halcyon and Appledale. Kokanee salmon and bull trout spawned in the deltas and later to build a tunnel to take Columbia water to the all-important Site C Dam, there’s the formidable General A.G.L. McNaughton, avatar of the river-as-machine philosophy, wanted to keep Canadian control of the rivers. He hatched a scheme to divert the upper Kootenay into the Columbia and later to build a tunnel to take Columbia water to the all-Canadian Fraser River. Mercifully, the byzantine machinations of the CRT in the 1960s put a stop to that. Pearkes gives us the details, but in the end BC got money and downstream benefits in exchange for 15 million acre-feet of water storage behind the High Arrow, Duncan, and Mica dams. We also got flood control from the Libby Dam on the Montana segment of the Kootenay River.

FOR HER BOOK, PEARKES TOURED THE RIVER-BASIN, by

A River Captured: The Columbia River Treaty and Catastrophic Change

Eileen Pearkes (Rocky Mountain Books $20)

EILEEN PEARKES SHOWS THAT THERE WERE MANY SIMILAR STORIES OF HYDRO CHISELING, threatening and bullying landowners to give up their land. The boast by W.A.C. Bennett that the province got “tens of millions of dollars” for 7.1 million acre-feet of Arrow Lakes water storage is a subterfuge. “No one in government cared about the people who lived here, who loved living here,” says John Gellard, “Eileen Pearkes.” “No one was consulted.”

PUT UPON A TIME

The reservoir behind the Libby Dam is now known as Lake Koocanusa. “The land is quite dry with open “montane” vegetation, suitable for free range cattle. Here, Pearkes meets Stanley Triggs who once photographed and documented the prosperous ranchers of the lower Kootenay.

“I documented a tremendous loss,” says Triggs, now in his 80s. “They whittled those people down to the bone. They got nothing left.”

SOME HEROIC ATTEMPTS AT MITIGATION HAVE BEEN MADE

Once again, with the proposal for Site C, there’s the same atavistic drive to “control” the Peace River.

Once again we are seeing the river as machine, chiseling and bullying of landowners to make them give up and leave fertile lands.

A River Captured should be required reading for politicians from all B.C. parties, and any one else in the province who will not learn from the river-as-machine metaphor.

John Gellard’s articles have appeared in The Globe and Mail and The Watershed Sentinel. Last issue he reviewed David Suzuki and Ian Hanington’s book on climate change.
THE SMALLPOX WAR IN NUXALK TERRITORY

Did settlers spread smallpox intentionally while displacing indigenous sovereignty at the founding of British Columbia? The Government of BC has officially acknowledged this activity in Tseil-Waututh territory. Now, informed by the near universal teaching of Elders about the smallpox epidemics of 1862, author Tom Swanky examines the written record so that readers can draw their own conclusions about what happened in Nuxalk territory.

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THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF ARTHUR

“SHERWOOD" was the code name for the Arthur Miller (né Sherwood) family’s summer cottage on Sproat Lake. In 1920, the thirteen-acre estate was purchased by the multi-billionaireoton family, and the way of life for the Miller family changed forever. Based on interviews and research with the family, this is the story of one of the most powerful and secret of all summer mansions. It is a story of loss, change, family and a legacy that is still in place today.

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The Fall of the House of Arthurd

A gripping and emotional memoir in which the author comes to meet the man who murdered her father twenty years earlier.

A graphic memoir about growing up Vietnamese in London as the Vietnam War intensifies.
The outpouring of centenary books about aspects of Canada’s involvement in the “Great War” continues with *From the Klondike to Berlin: The Yukon in World War I*.

BY JIM WOOD

*From the Klondike to Berlin* presents a narrative history of the men and women who lived in the Yukon, then an isolated Canadian mining outpost, when war broke out in 1914. Michael Gates has highlighted their patriotic, indomitable spirit, born during the Gold Rush of 1898 and continued by the hardy folk who answered the call to serve the British Empire.

One recruit summed up the northern spirit among his fellow soldiers: “I am going with Yukoners because I believe no part of the world can produce men more accustomed to all-round frontier experiences…in the face of all kinds of difficulties which try every man’s resources to the utmost.”

At the centre of the region’s war efforts were two locally-raised units: Joe Boyle’s Yukon Machine Gun Battery and the Yukon Infantry Company, recruited by George Black. Boyle’s unit trained at Hastings Park in Vancouver and Black’s infantry group at Victoria’s Willow Camp. Upon being sent overseas, both units were merged into the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

*From the Klondike to Berlin* features the Black family, George, Martha, and their son Lyman, as the epitome of a Yukon family at war, displaying what Canadian poet Robert Service depics as “The Law of the North” where men and women are “the strong and the sane,” “girt for the combat,” and “grit to the core.”

*George Black Qualified in Victoria* to become a captain. He recruited 255 men for the Yukon Infantry Company, and went on to lead his men in the battles of Amiens and the Hundred Days.

The 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade served with the Allied occupation force in Berlin after the Armistice, and following their departure for Canada, Black stayed on to act as defence counsel for several British Columbian soldiers who had been charged in the Kinnel Park demolition riots in Wales in 1919. Martha Black was well known for having climbed the Chilkoot Trail of 1898 while pregnant and going on to create a thriving sawmill business. During the war she led patriotic fundraising campaigns in Dawson City, and in England she continued her work with hospital visits, letter writing, and administration of the Yukon Comfort Fund. In 1935, she became the second woman elected to the House of Commons (the first being Agnes Macphail), and the first American-born woman to do so.

Their son Lyman Black joined up as a student from Dawson Public School, went on to be promoted to lieutenant, and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry near Amiens in 1918.

From the Klondike to Berlin includes wide-ranging coverage of war experiences of Yukon soldiers, including the exhaustion and high casualty rate suffered by Joe Boyle’s Machine Gun Battery in action at the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, and the Hundred Days. Boyle went on to assist the Romanian royal family by transporting the Crown jewels on a treacherous 1300-kilometre journey through Bolshevik Russia. Robert Service’s work as an ambulance driver, journalist, and intelligence officer is shown in *From the Klondike to Berlin* to have frequently portrayed in his poetry, the devastation and suffering of war, with the result that his writing was targeted by Canada’s chief censor.

Yukon history has been well documented for the Trail of ’98 and the Alaska Highway; *From the Klondike to Berlin*, however, explores new territory, using local and archival sources to reveal the experiences of individuals serving on both the home front and overseas, documenting the impact on Canadian families of an increasingly dire manpower situation in the later stages of World War I.

*From the Klondike to Berlin* concentrates on Yukon men and women’s uniqueness of character and fortitude that is the proud heritage of Canada’s north country.

Nearly one thousand men of Yukon’s population of about five thousand enlisted, a rate much higher than in the rest of Canada, and fundraising campaigns garnered a similarly patriotic response.

Where the average Canadian donation to the war was one dollar per capita, Yukoners raised donations at twelve times that rate. Yukon lost about 85 men of the thousand who served. Impressive memorials were mounted in the years following the war.

Michael Gates has captured that spirit, built on the challenges of northern living and carried forward to the war effort, patriotic fundraising, and recognition of the sacrifices made.

The best essays by Jamie Reid
“preserve what you never remember after a late night involving wine” according to John Moore

Jamie Reid (1941-2015) poet
Karlene Faith (1938-2017) author, scholar, activist
S.C. Heal (1925-2017) historian, publisher
Joan Skogan (1945-2017) novelist, historian
Jim Wong-Chu (1949-2017) poet, activist, mentor

In passing

David Watmough (1926-2017) novelist, poet

For full obituaries of these six authors, see abcbookworld.com

John Moore reviews from Garibaldi Highlands.
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LGBTQ2 in Canada

ISBN 978-0-9947302-4-4
$10 - 6’x 9’ - 108 pages

IT TAKES ONE TO TANKA

Naomi Wakan venerates human contact in a cold world

Wakan elaborates: “The haiku speaks only of images: an empty cabin, a canoe filled with leaves. Yet, on consideration, it is clear to us that this haiku clearly speaks of the impermanence of things, using just those images with no overt indication of this inner idea.

“The tanka also has a strong sense of images: the drifting boat, the loon’s call, but it allows itself a comment that directs our thoughts to the high value of human contact in a cold world.”

There is nothing new about this sort of poetry in the English language. The early modernists who called themselves Imagists learned from Japanese poetics. If none of the tanka quoted by Wakan attain the impact of William Carlos Williams’ Red Wheelbarrow or Ezra Pound’s petals on a wet black bough, most approach an intensity and focus worth striving for.

As a mentor, Wakan has felt moved to offer a way “to bridge the gap between what people wanted to express and what they were able to express, the chasm between inner and outer lives.”

Naomi Wakan recalls a comment once made of her poetry, that it is really prose until you come to the last line.

THE WAY OF TANKA BEGINS WITH A SELECTION OF FIFTY TANKA. ONLY AFTER READERS AND WOULD-BE WRITERS HAVE DIGESTED THESE, DOES THE INSTRUCTION BEGIN.

Chapters address the uses and varieties of tanka, love tanka, nostalgic tanka, witty tanka, response tanka [two poets carry on a conversation in alternate tanka], ekphrastic tanka [tanka describing another work of art, e.g. a painting], tan renga [first three lines by one poet, last two by someone else] and tanka as self-expression.

The discipline involved in a tanka, like that in any traditional form whether it be sonnet or villanelle, can calm the poet’s eye. That said, most readers of this book will have dabbled in haiku and be ready to move on—or to move back and forth, depending on the day and the mood.

Phyllis Parham Reeve

Retired librarian Phyllis Parham Reeve is co-founder of the bookstore at Page’s Resort & Marina on Gabriola Island.

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WHEN FEAR IS NOT AN OPTION

Deadpoint by Nikki Tate

Nikki Tate’s latest YA thriller, Deadpoint, is part of the fast-paced, easy-to-read action novel series called Orca Sports. These are relatively short (25,000 words) stories well-suited for the reluctant reader.

In Deadpoint we meet Ayla, an anxious, sixteen-year-old who loves to rock climb—providing it takes place on an indoor climbing wall. Her best friend, Lissy, is much more adventurous. Passionate about the great outdoors, fearless Lissy doesn’t spend her time worrying about what might happen, the way Ayla does.

When Carlos, an adventurous new boy, arrives in town, he and Lissy share an instant connection that has Ayla feeling a little bit like a third wheel. Young readers will relate to the fusing feelings Ayla experiences when the new boy, arrives in town, he and Lissy share an instant connection that has Ayla feeling a little bit like a third wheel.

The path of intrepid climbing does not run smooth. When Lissy and her father are seriously injured on Black Dog Mountain during a terrifying accident, it means Ayla and Carlos will be pushed to their limits both physically and emotionally.

During the fast-paced rescue operations, young readers’ hearts’ rate will climb right alongside Ayla and Carlos as the two teens brave adverse conditions and, somehow, save the day. The main characters are believable and the dialogue is refreshingly authentic. The compelling plot, narrative tension and gratifying finish hooked my attention and sustained my interest. In fact, I loved it.

BY CAROL ANNE SHAW

Nikki Tate, herself an avid climber, has succeeded in writing a novel that not only entertains but educates in the arts of both story telling and rock climbing. Detailed descriptions of climbing maneuvers and appropriate jargon happen at just the right time, and in just the right place. Not only did Deadpoint leave me with some real knowledge of the sport, I now feel inclined to give it a try—and I’m afraid of heights.

Carol Anne Shaw is the author of the “Hannah” books, from Ronsdale Press.

Teen Revolutionary

Samantha Smart is living the life of your average teen, even captain of her high school soccer team, when a close election leaves her country teetering into totalitarianism. Samantha is thrust into the fight to save democracy in How Samantha Smart Became a Revolutionary (Red Deer Press $14.95) by Victoria’s Dawn Green.

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Beverly Cramp

Memoir Writing Services
For a time, Portuguese Joe and his family lived in the traditional village of Papeyek (now known as Brocton Point in Stanley Park). In 2015, Marston erected a monument to Portuguese Joe at Brocton Point.

Historian and writer Larry Wong recounts how, in the 1960s, Mary Chan saved Straithcona, Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood. It was being threatened by the new-fangled notion of "urban renewal," which meant bulldozers to Chan and her neighbours. They formed a group that included lawyer Mike Harcourt, later mayor of Vancouver and premier of B.C. to fight the destruction of their neighbourhood. Surprisingly, the group won, becoming the first city in Canada to drop urban renewal.

Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration founder, Mo Dhaliwal examines the depth of family friends," concluding, "I now consider my family to be those who are there for me in time and spirit, those who are common to me in bond if not in blood, who are kindred in their hopes and dreams if not in lineage."

Lawyer Barbara Findlay, describing herself as, "a fat white 67-year-old cisgender lesbian with disabilities, raised Christian and working class, the eldest of five, in Regina," found family in the gay community. "We dykes used to offer each other the common wisdom: watch out for weddings and funerals. Places where family formations matter. This closeness was in contrast to one of Findlay's sisters who, when asked about the appointed guardian of her only daughter, replied she had chosen a neighbour—whom she saw only occasionally—rather than Barbara and her lesbian partner. "When I questioned her choice she said she would never let her daughter be raised by us."

Other stories include author Joy Kogawa's account of her kinship to a cherry tree; Patrick Lane's elegiac poem to fathers and sons; and rancher and Lieutenant Governor of B.C. Judith Guichon's description of families changing over time but how the love of the land unites them all.

I quit altogether. I never went inside none of the damn churches after I get away from the East.

Jimmy White, panning on the Wild Horse River, Fort Steele.

British Columbia is less religious than other provinces. Or, if you prefer, it is more irreligious. For many citizens, irreligion has been a blessing in disguise.

Since the 1980s, for instance, many B.C. churches have been deconsecrated, sold, and “repurposed” as art galleries, museums, performance halls, restaurants, and even pot shops.

In The Secular Northwest: Religion and Irreligion in Everyday Postwar Life (UBC Press $32.95), Tina Block offers a relatively uncommon analysis of secularism in postwar B.C. from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Block also draws on forty interviews that she conducted in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Seattle, Olympia, and Port Angeles with individuals across, and even off, the secularism spectrum.

✫ UVIC HISTORY PROF Lynne Marks has also examined the limitations of organized Christianity in often godless B.C. for Infidels and the Damn Churches: Irreligion and Religion in Settler British Columbia (UBC Press $95). In this study of secularism, she asserts class and racial tensions fueled irreligion in settler B.C.

“I tend to say I am studying irreligion, rather than secularism,” says Marks, “because many of the people—mostly men—I refer to in the book can be defined as irreligious, but most are not entirely secular.”

The wide-ranging content includes a spiritualist picnic in Victoria, a Chinese temple, a well-known atheist journalist in the Kootenays named Lowery and a prospector interviewed by CBC’s Imbert Orchard in the 1960s named Jimmy White.

Essentially, the further west people came, the more they felt disinclined to honour the institutionalized values of eastern North America and Europe.

Infidels: 978-0-7748-3344-8; Secular Northwest: 9780774831291
Talking the walk

Once upon a time there were peaceniks.

Between 1986 and 2011, the aptly named Derek Walker Youngs devoted much of his life to peace, leading to his posthumous book, Walking to Japan: A Memoir (Tellwell Talent $17.95), completed and co-written by his widow and co-walker Carolyn Affleck Youngs.

Derek Walker Youngs was born in England on June 16, 1940, during a World War II air raid. At age 45 Youngs participated in the 1986 Great Peace March for Nuclear Disarmament across the U.S.A.—a naive but determined, nine-month commitment to walk almost 6,000 kilometres from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. to spread the message of global disarmament and a ban on nuclear weapons. He subsequently founded the Peace Walker Society, eventually walking more than 25,000 kilometres in 25 countries.

Like the classic Fool in the Tarot pack, the Galiano Island-based healer (who later lived on the Sunshine Coast and in Victoria), walked “in trust and faith,” usually not knowing where he would sleep or find his next meal. He succeeded in walking across Canada in two stages, in 1988-1989, during which time he added the middle name Walker, as suggested by friends.

Youngs sometimes gained media attention while sharing his own stories of love and learning with people; but mostly he was solo and unheralded.

First wed at age twenty in 1963 and separated in the early 1970s, he met a yoga and Reiki teacher, Lani Kaito, eventually embracing the West Coast lifestyle of Buddhism, Hinduism, meditation and massage, and together they founded the Integrated Health Centre. His increasingly alternative beliefs and practices led him to a deep and enduring marriage to Linda Ward, a doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. They stayed together until her death in 2007.

An anachronism—a radical university professor shares the history, theory, and deeply humanistic and peaceful ideals of the revolutionary mode of thought that Louise Michel described as “Order through harmony.”

The Receiver

Sharon Thesen

“The body is the receiver of all that is; poetic imagination the transmitter of the world.”

Sharon Thesen is a three-time Governor General’s Award finalist; this is her thirteenth book of poetry, and the first since Oyama Pink Shale (2011).

Anarchy Explained to My Father

Francis Dupuis-Déri & Thomas Déri

Through dialogue with his father, a radical anarchist university professor shares the history, theory, and deeply humanistic and peaceful ideals of the revolutionary mode of thought that Louise Michel described as “Order through harmony.”

Culture Gap

Towards a New World in the Yalakom Valley

Judith Plant

Judith Plant’s memoir of the fleeting achievements and many uncommon good times of Camelfoot, a philosophical commune out of this world, glows with wisdom, complexity, and compassion. A noble read.

—Stephanie Mills, author of Epicurean Simplicity and In Service of the Wild

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34 BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 2017
MEMOIR

As a scientist he carefully recorded the progress of radiation disease and the treatments applied, but still wrote that atomic energy could also be used for the betterment of humanity. That leads to Kogawa’s debates with her friends, the anti-nuclear power sociologist Metta Spencer and the physicist Erich Vogt who supported the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The book then jumps back to Japan, to Kyoto. While there, accompanying her adored and elderly father who was on a speaking tour, Kogawa finally confronted him with what she had long known, that although “a visionary and charismatic priest,” he was a paedophile. Telling him, and later telling the world through her writing, provided her with a release, a mercy. Nevertheless, even after his death she continued to wonder “how my blithe light-hearted father could be the epitome of evil.”

Kogawa’s memoir also reveals tensions within the Japanese Canadian community as some would not forgive her father and opposed the turning of the family’s pre-war home in Vancouver’s Marpole district into an artists’ residence since it would also, indirectly, honour him. Kogawa was not the only descendant to be troubled by the actions of an ancestor. Two granddaughters of Howard Green, one of the B.C. Members of Parliament who called for the removal of the Japanese Canadians from the province, came to Kogawa when members of the Japanese Canadian community successfully campaigned against naming a new federal building in Vancouver after Green.

Kogawa was shocked to discover that her friend Stuart Philpott was the son of Elmore Philpott, a Vancouver journalist who, in 1942, also wanted the Japanese removed from the coast.

Despite the efforts of Green’s granddaughters to point out his many virtues, and of Philpott to explain the context of the time in which his father wrote, Kogawa could not extend mercy until the descendants admitted that their ancestors were racists.

Kogawa and her brother publicly admitted the “sinister sexual attacks” of their father, but the rage against him continued and Kogawa remained “the daughter of a paedophile.” Yet, in a closing poem, Kogawa suggests the Goddess of Mercy listens.

Gently to Nagasaki is an intensely personal story and a tantalizing one. One hopes that Joy Kogawa will write a full autobiography that will clearly be catalogued as a “921.”


Tidings of discomfort & Joy

BY PATRICIA E. ROY

The librarian who provided the cataloguing in Publication information gave Joy Kogawa’s Gently to Nagasaki: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, an Exploration Both Communal and Intensely Personal (Caitlin Press $24.95) a call number in the 800s in Dewey Decimal system. That would shelve it with literature. Given Kogawa’s fine reputation as a writer and as a poet, this is understandable choice especially since all of her prose reads like poetry. Kogawa explains how she created the characters in her much-praised novel, Obasan (1981), her subsequent reflections, and the origins of her novel, The Rain Ascends (1995).

This book, however, is much more than a literary exegesis. Many other call numbers are plausible. A case can be made for putting it in the 100s for it deals with the psychological effects and the disease of being a paedophile as a father. It could sit in the 200s beside other books about religion, but its discussions within the Anglican Church in which Kogawa’s father was an ordained minister.

Another possibility would be the 300s since there is much about Japanese Canadians, particularly during the time of their forced removal from the coast in 1942, the loss of their property, and the aftermath. As Kogawa expresses it, “We were tossed as pearls in a broken necklace and as scraps for the dogs of labour, a few here, a few there, over the vast Canadian landscape.”

One could even consider putting the book in the 500 or 600s, where its discussions of atomic energy could be related to medicine or technology. Had discusions of atomic energy could also be used for the betterment of humanity. That leads to Kogawa’s debates with her friends, the anti-nuclear power sociologist Metta Spencer and the physicist Erich Vogt who supported the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The book then jumps back to Japan, to Kyoto. While there, accompanying her adored and elderly father who was on a speaking tour, Kogawa finally confronted him with what she had long known, that although “a visionary and charismatic priest,” he was a paedophile. Telling him, and later telling the world through her writing, provided her with a release, a mercy. Nevertheless, even after his death she continued to wonder “how my blithe light-hearted father could be the epitome of evil.”

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Kwâday Dân Ts’ìnchî

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ATTACK OF THE LONELY HEARTS by Mark Wagstaff
Winner of the 39th Annual 3-Day Novel Writing Contest. In Attack of the Lonely Hearts, each character is broken in their own forlorn way. A master of the dark and witty one-liner, Wagstaff manages to spin a hilarious and off-kilter story about what can happen when lonely hearts discover they’re attached to even lonelier bodies.

Yoka, the beekeeper, is engrossed in Mark Winston’s Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive (Harvard U Press).

www.yokascoffee.com
36 BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 2017
Jordan Abel wins Griffin

He is fully aware his books are not easily accessible.

Abel holds a B.A. from the University of Alberta and an M.F.A. from UBC. While completing his Ph.D. at SFU, his studies have focussed on “digital humanities” and indigenous poetics.

Abel’s first book, The Place of Scraps (Talonbooks, 2013), won the Dorothy Liveley Poetry Prize. It was followed by Un/inhabited (Talonbooks/Project Space Press) in 2014.

CBC Books named Abel one of 12 Young Writers to Watch in 2015.

For Abel’s second poetry project, Un/inhabited, he constructed the book’s source text by compiling 91 complete western novels found on the website Project Gutenberg, an archive of public domain works.

Using the Ctrl-F function, he then searched the document in its totality for words that related to the political and social aspects of land, territory and ownership. Each search query represented a study in context. This collection included a text by independent curator Kathleen Ritter—the first piece of scholarship on Abel’s work.

“A book, for sure… I don’t think that it demands you read all of it,” he said. “… I’m always surprised that people try to read it from front to back.”

Former editor of PRISM international and Geist, Jordan Abel is on the editorial board of Poetry is Dead magazine.

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Not everyone goes brain-dead in the heat

Editor Mona Fertig has gathered poignant summer stories, all previously unpublished, from B.C. writers.

BY HOWARD STEWART

Editor Mona Fertig has put together a masterpiece collection of finely crafted and evocative reminders of why summer is such a special season in The Summer Book: A Treasury of Warm Tales, Timeless Memories and Meditations on Nature by 24 BC writers (Mother Tongue Publishing $24.95). Fertig describes The Summer Book as “my counterweight, a small feather on the scale against the madness and angst in the world.” But it’s not all sweetness and light. I had to put The Summer Book down at times, not because of the quality of the writing, which was mostly exceptional, but because of emotions stirred by the authors’ poignant ruminations on their summers.

The contributors have found so many ways to get inside the intensity of feelings and memories of the glorious high sun months when we finally get an opportunity to slow down enough to notice the ravens and eagles, the bees and dragonflies, the frogs and alligator lizards, etc.

Not all recollections are happy ones, especially if, like Des Kennedy, you were a redhead prone to sunburn or stuck in torrid urban stews like Toronto or New York City.

Or if, like Jane Eaton Hamilton’s young friend at the lake, you just couldn’t shake that nagging fear of bull sharks.

Some summer experiences, like Claudia Cornwall’s canoe journey around Desolation Sound, are powerful and deliberate antidotes to other things that we need to put behind us.

The charming artwork of Peter Haase, Briony Penn, and Gary Sim interspersed among the writing is also a valuable complement to it—though I would have liked to see the colours in Penn’s glorious watercolours.

These stories, linocuts and watercolours—all produced and edited with consummate care—are for reading in the hammock in the summer and leaving on the bedside table when the winter rains return.

Denman Island’s Howard Stewart’s forthcoming book is “Views of the Salish Sea: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Change around the Strait of Georgia” (Harbour Publishing).
A new Rielty

“The ideals that Louis Riel fought for—ideals of inclusiveness and equality—are now the very same values on which we base our country’s identity.”

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, 2016

Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel's heroic struggle to bring democracy and harmony back to our Northwest.”

The Metis in what is now viewed as Manitoba had their own system of Indigenous government in 1872 before it was crushed by the administration of Prime Minister John A. MacDonald, making way for CPR expansion.

Over the past thirty-plus years, Doyle, secretary of the Friends of Louis Riel Society, has helped to uncover and collect important evidence that has surfaced since Riel’s controversial trial and execution.

Now Doyle is on a book tour to Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton prior to returning to Regina and Winnipeg in October to mark the 50th anniversary of John Coulter’s play The Trial of Louis Riel.

On Louis Riel Day (February 20, 2018), the Friends of Louis Riel Society will hold a national commemorative calling for exoneration and recognition of Riel as Canada’s Indigenous (Métis) Father of Confederation.

It has taken more than a century since Louis Riel was executed for this nation to begin to widely accept what Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stated (above).

Michael Barnholden’s discovery of a previously unknown text by Louis Riel—a poem written in the Regina jail just before his execution—has led to Flat Willow Creek: The Poems of Louis Riel, 1876–1883 (Talon $19.95) which includes the 481-line epic “To Sir John A.” and other poems written when Riel lived the traditional life of a Métis buffalo hunter and developed his concept of a “New Nation” for the Métis people.

SONG OF BATOCHIE BY MAIA CARON (Konsdale $18.95) is a historical novel that reimagines the North-West resistance of 1885 through the experiences of the Métis women of Batoche.

Louis Riel by Miguel Joyal (1996), Manitoba legislative building

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Self-Counsel Press

BIOGRAPHY
I started soliciting and editing reviews within hours of agreeing to Alan Twigg’s plan to more than double the number of serious book reviews in B.C. The response to our pilot project has been immensely gratifying. We’ve reviewed books from every major B.C. publisher as well as many smaller B.C. presses, plus publishers in the rest of Canada.

In eleven months, we’ve published 101 book reviews and 19 essays, with 64 more reviews in progress.

We even published a book: Alice Ravenhill: Never Say Die, by Mary Leah de Zwart, a 50,000-word biography of Alice Ravenhill (1859–1954), the Anglo-Canadian Indigenous rights activist, in our fledgling The Ormsby Review Press (ORP). Our 184 contributors live in every region of the province from Fort St. John and Fort Langley to Cranbrook and Williams Lake, to Cowichan and Nanaimo Bay and to the smaller towns and islands of the B.C. coast, including Bella Coola, Cobby Hill, Springbank, Denman, Hornby, Galiano, and Gabriola.

The books we review reflect a broad range of provincial interests. If you visit The Ormsby Review page on BCBookLook.com, you’ll find:

We have reviewed local, regional, and community history books such as The Gang of 184 (as we sometimes call it) launch our avalanche of support for books by, from and about the changing conceptions of fatherhood between 1971 and 2015 (#104), intra-gender identities (#99), and biographies of twelve women (mentioned elsewhere here).

The future is bright if our hard-won progress receives provincial funding for staffing and a stand-alone website.

Seven prize categories for fiction, poetry, children’s, illustrated, non-fiction, regional, and booksellers’ choice. Submission deadline is December 1, 2017.

Nominations are also open for the lifetime achievement award, The Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence. Submission deadline is January 31, 2018.

For submission details visit www.bcbookprizes.ca.
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WooDcOOk wInNER

I was so glad to be at the ceremony to present Rolf Knight and Wade Davis their Woodcock and Ryga awards—especially Rolf Knight. I just happened to be reading Rolf’s book Voyage through the Last Century at the time. I had seen it mentioned in BC Bookworld a couple of years ago. I keep copies for a few years, reading back issues to re-read myself of books I’ve missed. I was pleased to be able to speak with Rolf after the presentation. We are looking forward to reading some more of his books. I just want to thank whoever was involved in presenting him with the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jan Naylor
Pemberton

Breathe deeply

In this digital age, your publication is a breath of fresh air! Note: I use exclamations marks very sparingly! The Wade Davis article alone was well worth the price of admission... wow! Oh yeah, FREE! Keep up the good work!cause!

Tim Carson
Carson Books
Vancouver

Inexpressible

I can’t tell you how honoured and surprised I was to open BC BookWorld and see Joan Givner’s full-page review of my book. It was beyond my expectations! I don’t know how I can ever thank you for this.

Paina Granirer
Vancouver

Moved to action

I was so moved by the photographs and article about Lubohombo in the Summer issue of BC BookWorld that I mailed you for a $100 this afternoon to you. Thank you for connecting such a worthy and do-able cause to the readers of BC BookWorld, once again proving that BC BookWorld is Resolve (yes) in so many ways. The moment I saw the photograph on page 37 and read about Placid Kindata I immediately thought of Eric Walter’s book Hope Springs, so perfectly illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes.

In September, when I read Hope Springs for children in grade one, I will show them the BC BookWorld photographs of Placid Kindata and the three little ones whose village will surely get the vehicle they need with the kind support of readers in B.C. They will understand how their humanity is connected to the greater world.

Susan Yates
Gabriola Island

2017 Woodcock Award recipient Rolf Knight (centre) with Sandra Singh of Vancouver Public Library and event co-sponsor Yosef Wosk.

BC BookWorld

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SMALL DONATION TO maintain Lubohombo brothers and sisters in East Africa.

I visited East Africa with my brother when we were both in our teens. My father was helping to set up a cancer clinic in Nairobi, Kenya. We traveled around Kenya and Tanzania. The panoply of stars, grave of giraffes, magnificence of elephants, astonishing array of beautiful birds, and the connection with people made it a singularly memorable experience.

Daphne Oubaa
Vancouver

Annick Press...29
Arsenal Pulp Press...26
Athenaeum Books...41
BC Book Prizes...40
BC Ferries Books...14
BC Historical Federation...26
Caitin Press...33
Cramp, Beverly...31
Douglas & McIntyre...6
Douglas College/EVENT...37
Ellis, David...41
Fiction Press...30
Figure 1 Publishing...16
Friesens Printers...43
Galiano Island Books...41
Granville Island Publishing...29
Greystone Books...2
Harbour Publishing...44
The Heritage Group of Publishers...4
Houghton Mifflin...43
Jewish Book Festival...11
Kamloops Writers Festival...11
Libera Libreart Publishing...36
Massey Books...41
Marquis...43
Mercury...18
Mermaid Tales Bookshop...41
Mother Tongue Publishing...11
New Society Publishers...19
New Star Books...34
Now or Never Publishing...35
Ocean Guides...26
Onka Books...24
Penguin Random House...14
Printemps/Islaand Blue...43
Rebel Mountain Press...30
Rendakc Press...12
Ross, Kat...30
Royal BC Museum...35
Rudnata, Norbert...30
Salmon Recipes...37
Self-Counsel Press...39
Shuswap Press...35
Sidney Booktown...41
Steddford Press...18
Swanxy, Tom...26
Talisbooks...20
Theatre in the Raw...30
Thistledown Press...31
UBC Press/Parachute Books...29
University of Toronto Press...38
Vancouver Desktop...31
Vancouver International Writers Fest...9
Vancouver Manuscript Intensive...31
Vancouver Rare Book Show...41
Walking To Japan...37
Whistler Writers Festival...8
Yoko’s Coffee...36
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Raven Walks Around the World
By Raven
Life of a Wandering Activist
Here is the colourful autobiography of Thomas Henville, environmentalist, human rights advocate and co-founder of the Rediscovers wilderness program for youth.

Harry, A Wilderness Dog Saga
By Chris Czajkowski
A delightful wilderness memoir from the perspective of Chris Czajkowski’s canine companions including the gregarious and lovable Harry. This book is sure to be a new favourite of anyone who’s ever dreamed of packing up and moving far away from city amenities with only a loyal dog for company.

Vertical Horizons
The History of Okanagan Helicopters
The swashbuckling story of Canada’s legendary pioneer helicopter company, written by helicopter pilot Douglas M. Grant, features first-hand accounts, extensive research and a multitude of photographs.

It Can Be Done
An Ordinary Man’s Extraordinary Success
By Michele Carter
A fascinating autobiography of Chick Stewart, a self-made man who created the most successful custom cutting sawmill business in BC. Written with

Trailer Park Elegy
In response to her brother’s sudden death, celebrated poet Cornelia Hoogland explores the shift in gravity his dramatic absence creates. This tightly scored long poem, set on the Salish Sea on Vancouver Island’s east coast, explores the thin membrane between the living and the dead.

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