MYSTERYMASTER

John MacLachlan Gray revisits Vancouver’s most notorious cold case—the perplexing 1924 murder of Janet Smith—in his novel The White Angel.

SEE PAGE 25

Who’s Who 36 • Your Free Guide to Books & Authors

Near Death on Canada’s Everest P.11

Carys Cragg confronts the man who murdered her father.

PAGE 20

Colin Browne on the unsigned masterpieces of Charles Edenshaw.

PAGE 16

Sage Birchwater chronicles odd characters in the Chilcotin.

PAGE 18

Coleman Nye mixes comics and politics in ethnographic fiction.

PAGE 26

Public Service
LIQUOR, LUST, AND THE LAW
AARON CHAPMAN
978-1-55152-714-7; $26.95
An updated edition of Chapman’s colourful history of Vancouver’s legendary Penthouse Nightclub.

DUTCH FEAST
EMILY WIGHT
978-1-55152-687-4; $32.95
A modern take on classic Dutch cuisine by the Vancouver-based Well Fed, Flat Broke blogger.

DEAD RECKONING
CARYS CRAGG
978-1-55152-697-3; $19.95
A gripping and emotional memoir in which the author comes to meet the man who murdered her father twenty years earlier.

FIGHTING FOR SPACE
TRAVIS LUPICK
978-1-55152-712-3; $24.95
“Travis Lupick’s fascinating book should help inform a more rational understanding of addictions treatment and drug policies everywhere.” —Dr. Gabor Maté

SAIGON CALLING
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BODY MUSIC
JULIE MAROR; DAVID HOMEL, TRANS.
978-1-55152-692-8; $28.95
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WHAT I THINK HAPPENED
EVANY ROSEN
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IN CASE I GO
ANGIE ABDOU
978-1-55152-703-1; $17.95
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DON’T TELL ME WHAT TO DO
DINA DEL BUCCHIA
978-1-55152-701-7; $17.95
“A confident collection of 15 witty, tightly crafted tales of theft, artisanal doghouses, and funeral crashing. —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

ORACLE BONE
LYDIA KWAA
978-1-55152-699-7; $19.95
“A transcfixing narrative that bears the intimate familiarity of a dream with the grandeur of a historical epic.” —Doreeta Lau

TARRY THIS NIGHT
KRISTYN DUNNION
978-1-55152-705-5; $16.95
“Immediate and terrifying, Dunnion’s fresh new narrative adds to the growing conversation about misogyny and freedom. A surefire hit for fans of Margaret Atwood’s A Handmaid’s Tale.” —Booklist

FROM THE STARS IN THE SKY TO THE FISH IN THE SEA
KAi CHENG THom
978-1-55152-709-3; $18.95
A beautiful children’s picture book about a gender variant child and their mother’s enduring love.
first responders in 2017 were everywhere—dealing with hurricanes, earthquakes and forest fires. Aaron Williams’ Chasing Smoke: A Wildfire Memoir (Harbour $22.95) describes the camaraderie and tactics required to survive 16-hour, high-adrenaline days in apocalyptic fiery landscapes. Born in Terrace and raised in Prince Rupert, Williams spent eight years fighting forest fires around Canada and in Idaho. His book topped the BC Bestseller List in November.

Previously, David Greer, as a squad boss in the British Columbia Forest Service, co-authored Coming Through Fire: The Wildland Firefighter Experience (Raincoast, 2001) with Noel Hendrickson. 078-1-55017-805-0

“‘When I was growing up,’” writes acclaimed Cree playwright Tomson Highway in his remarkable prologue to From Oral to Written: A Celebration of Indigenous Literature in Canada, 1980-2010 (Talon $29.95), “‘the nearest centre of white civilization, so to speak, was Lynn Lake, a mining town seventy-six miles to the south as the crow flies. There being no road, one had to fly there, by bush plane with its pontoons in summer, its skis in winter. To us children, Lynn Lake with its population of some three thousand white people was the Emerald City: New York or Paris! All by way of saying that Indigenous languages on reserves like Brochet [where he grew up on] the Barren Lands First Nation in northern Manitoba] remain intact. To this day, there are people up there—my godmother, aunts, uncles, cousins—who speak no English. My mother didn’t speak it.’”

Tomson Highway continues to write his plays in Cree. His overview of Indigenous Lit highlights most of the best-known works over four decades of growth until 2010; with notables from B.C. including Lee Maracle, Jeannette Armstrong, Taitaie Alfred, Joanne Arnott, Marie Clements, George Clutesi, Garry Gottfriedson, Vera Manuel, Eden Robinson, Harry Robinson, Gregory Scafeid and Richard Wagamese.

In the past decade indigenous literature has exploded. For a comprehensive reckoning, you can find information pertaining to 252 indigenous authors in British Columbia alone by visiting the ABCBookWorld reference site. 978-1-77201-116-6
**ISLAND OF THE BLUE FOXES**
Disaster and Triumph in Stegner’s Great Voyage to Alaska
Award-winning author **Stephen R. Bown**
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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.
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**TRUE CONFESSIONS FROM THE NINTH CONCESSION**
A funny and affectionate chronicle of rural Canadian life written by Homewood columnist **Dan Needles**, author of the Wingfield Farm series, winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and member of the Order of Canada.
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**PAPERBACK, FRENCH FLAPS** - 9½" x 6¼" - 224 PAGES - 978-1-77662-177-7

Available now in fine bookstores across the country
The hat came back
B.C. is home to some of the most well-preserved human remains in the world.

In 1999, a human body was found in a melting glacier in B.C.’s Tatsenhini-Alsek Park by three sheep hunters. Radiocarbon dating of the deceased, a nineteen-year-old male near the Yukon border determined he died between 170 and 300 years ago (circa 1720-1850 AD). Scientists say he was travelling in late summer based on pollen and seeds found in his clothing and gut. Materials from the water he was drinking helped identify which trail route he was following from coastal Alaska to the interior. Stable isotope analysis shows he grew up eating a marine diet, most likely on the Alaska coast, but that in the last year of his life his diet was largely inland food. The belongings found with his body included a walking stick, knife, robe made from about 95 arctic ground squirrel skins sewn together with sinew and the man’s remarkably well-preserved hat woven from spruce root. Similar gopher skin robes are still made by the Champagne and Aishihik people today, and spruce root hats are made by the Tlingit in Alaska.

Subsequent DNA testing of 240 volunteers from First Nations and Tribes in the areas surrounding his discovery revealed 17 of them were related to the man through their maternal line. For the first time in archaeology it was possible to combine DNA and cultural information to identify the man’s matrilineal clan. These findings were first discussed at a scientific conference in Victoria in 2008. The full story is now told in Kwaday Dän Ts’ìnchį: Teachings from Long Ago Person Found (Royal BC Museum $49.95) edited by Richard J. Hebdon, Sheila Greer, and Alexander P. Mackie.

In the Southern Tutchone language, the term Kwaday Dän Ts’ìnchį means ‘Long Ago Person Found.’ The book project is a collaboration between the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Royal BC Museum and the BC Archaeology Branch. The book demonstrates how it is possible for archaeologists to work with First Nations while addressing both cultural and scientific needs. Co-editor Alexander P. Mackie is the brother of Richard Mackie, editor of The Ormsby Review.

Margriet Ruurs has won the 10th annual, $5,000 Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize for Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey (Orca Book Publishers, 2016) presented by sponsor Samantha Holmes of Bolen Books. Inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr that she discovered on the internet, Ruurs made contact and they agreed to collaborate for a story about a family fleeing from the ravages of civil war. With only what they can carry on their backs, they set out to walk to freedom in Europe. Born in The Netherlands, Ruurs, of Saltspring Island, is herself widely travelled—sheila was a refugee to Canada as a small child and grew up eating well-preserved human remains in B.C. on the Alaska coast. She grew up in Ottawa, and her parents had married in Whitewater, B.C. in 1964. Eventually Scofield was able to trace his maternal ancestry back to the fur trade and the Métis community of Kinosis, Manitoba, established in 1828. His Métis family of Cree, Scottish, English and French descent has provided an incentive to come to terms with his troubled life. Eventually Scofield was able to trace his maternal ancestry back to the fur trade and the Métis community of Kinosis, Manitoba, established in 1828. His Métis family of Cree, Scottish, English and French descent has provided an incentive to come to terms with his troubled life.}

Gregory Scofield, born in Maple Ridge, published by Nightwood from the Sun-shine Coast. Scofield never knew his father—who later turned out to be Jewish—and he was separated from his mother at age five, sent to live with strangers. He grew up in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. Eventually he learned his parents had married in Whonnock, B.C. in 1964. Eventually Scofield was able to trace his maternal ancestry back to the fur trade and the Métis community of Kinosis, Manitoba, established in 1828. His Métis family of Cree, Scottish, English and French descent has provided an incentive to come to terms with his troubled life. In 2016, Scofield received the Latrier Writers’ Trust Poetry Prize, a $25,000 award for a poet in mid-career. Scofield is increasingly involved in publicizing Canada’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) on social media, a subject depicted in many of the poems for Witness, I Am (Nightwood $18.95), a collection that also delves into issues of identity and belonging.

Margriet Ruurs accepting Bolen Prize at Victoria Book Prizes.
**NEWLY COLLECTED**

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edited by Susan Holbrook

An early member of the avant-garde TISH group, which turned Canadian poetry for the first time to a focus on language, Marlatt’s career has spanned five decades and a range of formal styles and concerns. *Intertidal: The Collected Earlier Poems* offers Marlatt’s perceptual and Vancouver-centric work of the 1970s, her feminist writing of the 1980s, and her later collaborative explorations of the environment. *Intertidal* collects a broad selection of this poet’s groundbreaking work, including poetry from sixteen published collections and a number of previously unpublished or uncollected poems.

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“A beautifully detailed collection of summaries of works by more than a hundred Indigenous Canadian writers.” — Buffy Saint-Marie

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This poetry collection focuses on a hybridized Indigiqueer Trickster character named Zoa who brings together the organic (the protozoa) and the technologic (the binaric) in order to re-beautify and re-member queer Indigeneity. A Two-Spirit / Indigiqueer invention, Zoa infects, invades, and infests as a virus inside canonical and popular works in order to re-centre the lives of Two-Spirit individuals.

978-1-77201-187-6 • $18.95 • 136 pages • Poetry

**Prison Industrial Complex Explodes**

MERCEDES ENG

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 • 112 pages • Poetry

**Reveries of a Solitary Biker**

CATRIONA STRANG


978-1-77201-180-7 • $16.95 • 88 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 • 128 pages • Poetry

Talonbooks
Beyond Mile Zero: The Vanishing Alaska Highway Lodge Community by Lily Gontard and Mark Kelly (Harbour Publishing $24.95)

To mark the 75th anniversary of the construction of the Alaska Highway through B.C., the Yukon, and Alaska, Lily Gontard teamed up with photographer Mark Kelly to document over seventy lodges, past and present, along the highway north of Dawson Creek in Beyond Mile Zero: The Vanishing Alaska Highway Lodge Community.

They drove 8,113 kilometres over six years to research these motor inns—no easy task on a 1,422-mile (2,288 km) long highway where Mother Nature has reclaimed several abandoned lodges. Kelly took over 5,000 photographs and they interviewed over forty lodge owners, or descendants of owners.

Having filled its wartime military supply purpose, the Alaska Highway was opened to tourists in 1948. Soon lodges sprang up along the route, often with gas stations and mechanics on hand to repair vehicles rattled and shaken on the rough and unpaved road.

After introducing the highway’s construction and the history of Alaska Highway lodges, Gontard and Kelly present individual lodges in geographical order as they follow the highway north from Mile Zero at Dawson Creek to Delta Junction, Alaska.

Among the humorous stories and characters are Trapper Ray who operated the Liard Hot Springs Lodge near Mile 496. Also known as Ray Puttonen, he habitually told his visitors about the fur spider, a cross between an insect and a rodent. He convinced so many visitors of the existence of this mythical creature that exasperated park rangers at Liard Hot Springs constantly had to deny its existence.

Over sixty years, the demand for roadside accommodation gradually shrank. As road conditions and capabilities of vehicles increased, lodges were no longer needed every twenty-five miles. Gradually they closed due to the need for costly maintenance, the lack of people willing to take over, and the rerouting and upgrading of the highway.

For every operating lodge, today’s traveller sees at least two that are abandoned or for sale.

Many of the interviewees expressed nostalgia for the lodging community that will never again witness its mid-twentieth century heyday.

Some lodges, with people, resources, and customers in place, are in prime locations to continue for years to come. Others will close within the next decade with no one to take over or carry out repairs.

As a Yukon resident Gontard is most familiar with lodge history in that territory; now more work remains to be done to document this part of B.C. history.

The smaller archives along the Alaska Highway could be combed for more information and back issues of The Milepost and other travel magazines could be scoured to compile a conclusive historical list of highway lodges.

Gontard and Kelly are aware that their work is not yet over. Anyone with stories to contribute, especially about roadside establishments that aren’t included in the book, are invited to contact the authors.

Meanwhile, the 325,000-plus tourists who drive the Alaska Highway each year would do well to pick up a copy of this book.

Heather Longworth Sjoblom is the manager and curator of the Fort St. John North Peace Museum. She has an MA in history from the University of Victoria, and a post-graduate certificate in museum management and curatorship from Fleming College.
By DAN FRANCIS

Until the Fraser Canyon highway opened in 1927 there was no road connection between the coast and the interior of the province.

It took another thirteen years before motorists could drive from Alberta to the coast entirely within B.C. via the Big Bend Highway.

And then, in 1949, the much-delayed Hope-Princeton Highway finally opened a southern route through the province. The story of these three highways—their construction and their relationship to park development and historical sites—forms the core of Ben Bradley’s engaging British Columbia by the Road.

Next on Bradley’s itinerary is the Benmore area—B.C. Place, Big Bend country and the Cariboo Wagon Road, a perfect excuse to take it over but Ottawa had no intention of making the road an extension of the Rocky Mountain parks already established by Ottawa.

Neither the park nor the highway worked out as intended.

The Benmore area was a frightening drive that most travelers chose to avoid. It was a narrow, dusty, gravel road with precipitous drop-offs and no one to come to a stranded motorist’s rescue. Snow closed it during the winter.

One journalist called it “the loneliest road in North America” and recommended that anyone travelling between Revelstoke and Golden ship their vehicle by rail instead.

Hamber Park was equally disappointing. The province had intended all along that the federal government should take it over but Ottawa had no interest in doing so and the park languished: remote, not particularly scenic, without historic or natural attractions. Eventually, the province gave in to pressure from loggers and sharply reduced the size of the park.

In 1962 the Rogers Pass route replaced the road around the Big Bend; hydro dam construction flooded most of the old highway during the 1970s. Instead of a wilderness playground like Manning Park, Big Bend country and the bulk—98 percent—of Hamber Park were sacrificed to the demands of loggers and hydro engineers.

Lastly, Bradley examines the story of the Big Bend Highway.

For an academic book, British Columbia by the Road is refreshingly free of jargon and smoothly written; it also presents a thought-provoking new perspective on the history of B.C.’s interior.

“With the road in place all the way to Prince George, entrepreneurs stepped in to establish a variety of roadside accommodations and attractions for the motoring public.

When the centennial of the founding of the colony of B.C. rolled around in 1958, it proved a perfect excuse to ramp up historical activities along the highway, including a new set of plaques designating “Stops of Interest” and the restoration of the old townsite of Barkerville as an historic park.

For all the freedom of the open road, it is the state that chooses what motorists see and experience along the way. By 1970, Bradley observes, “the highways of the B.C. Interior seemed to be increasingly awash with old-timey ghost town parks, outdoor museums, living museums, and local museums.”

Bradley suggests that roadside attractions, from kitschy souvenir shops and ghost towns like Three-Valley Gap, to state-sponsored parks like Barkerville, nonetheless played a crucial role in building historical awareness.

Especially after 1958, “the view from the road” was carefully curated to represent a benign, uncontested version of provincial history.

“It was important,” writes Bradley, “that history be eye-catching, lively and accessible but not that it be necessarily accurate or profound.”

British Columbia by the Road is perhaps the province’s hardest-working and most popular historical historian. He edited the most essential book about the province, the Encyclopedia of British Columbia (Harbour, 2000), having previously worked as an editor for Mel Hurtig’s Encyclopedia of Canada.
WE DON’T KNOW FOR CERTAIN HOW Surrey got its name, but there is an anecdotal story that it was named after Surrey in England, now part of the City of London, as a consequence of its location across the river from (New) Westminster. Now “our” Surrey has taken another step towards getting the respect it deserves as B.C.’s second-largest city—destined to surpass Vancouver in population by 2041.

Completed in only fifteen months, K. Jane Watt’s amazingly affordable, 295-page pictorial history, *Surrey: A City of Stories* (City of Surrey $25), is an expansive coffee table book, in celebration of Canada 150, about the youthful city wherein one-third of its population is under age 19. When you think of Surrey, think diversity. More than 100 languages are spoken in Surrey and it welcomes 1,000 new residents each month.

Watt is president of the B.C. Historical Federation and book review editor for *BC History*.

A man paddles his canoe near the shoreline of Kikait, later subsumed by Surrey, in the 1860s, with New Westminster across the river.

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Shelley Adams

Just in time for Christmas, this long awaited fifth book in the bestselling Whitewater Cooks series is full of new recipes to inspire fans and delight newcomers to these fabulous cookbooks. Shelley’s innate flair for creating and developing recipes have made her famous for turning home cooks into culinary rock stars.

Also available in this series: Whitewater Cooks Pure, Simple and Real Creations from the Fresh Tracks Cafe, Whitewater Cooks at Home, Whitewater Cooks with Friends, Whitewater Cooks with Passion. Find them all at your local book store or kitchen shop.

30th Anniversary Edition!

COOKING without MOM
A Survival Cookbook for those attempting to cook on their own
The Hen Party

For 30 years, Cooking without Mom has been a classic cookbook for those leaving home for the first time, a standard text for college students, a life saver for individuals who have lost their partners and a starting point for retirees taking up the challenges of the kitchen. It’s the grad gift every parent wants their child to have and the perfect companion for stay-at-home Dads.

In this new edition, recipes better reflect today’s cooking trends. Now with over 150 recipes, this is a cookbook that new cooks will return to again and again.

More than a cookbook though, Cooking Without Mom is also a survival guide to domestic life, with useful information on essential grocery items, kitchen terms, food storage, how to do laundry, first aid basics, fire prevention and more.

9780993866312  $18.95 pb  Sandhill Publishing

Inspired Cooking with Michael Smith, Ned Bell, Roger Mooking + 17 more celebrity chefs

Get inspired with a cookbook that features an all-star cast of 21 of Canada’s finest celebrity chefs. These chefs share stories on how cancer has touched their lives and influenced their cooking styles. Each has contributed delicious and super healthy recipes that range from vegetarian, poultry and fish, to desserts and drinks. Here, too, are inspirational stories of cancer survivors. Proceeds from the book go to InspireHealth Supportive Cancer Care.

9780981228112  $33 pb  FreshAir Publishing

BC BESTSELLER!

British Columbia Lullaby
P. L. McCarron • Ilus Joy Steuerwald

This lovely portrait of BC celebrates baby animals set amidst iconic regions from forests and vineyards to the vast coast of the Pacific Ocean from Haida Gwaii to Tofino. The text is a gentle lullaby for the very young set against gorgeous paintings to introduce them to the wonders of BC. There’s a lullaby book for almost every province - ask at your local bookstore.

9780991946389  $12.95 board  Baby Lullaby

A Giraffe Called Geranium
Ananya Mansion • Ilus by Mary Baker

One day, on the west coast of Canada, a giraffe steps gracefully over the garden gate and into Susanna’s life...This beautifully illustrated book will enchant kids with the story of what happens when Susanna adopts Geranium as her pet and how she is ultimately able to return the giraffe to her African homeland.

9780993734106  $19.95 hc  Red Diamond Bks.

A Spicy Touch
Family Favours from Noorbanu Nimji’s Kitchen
Noorbanu Nimji with Karen Anderson

This award-winning cookbook captures the distinct flavours of the Ismaili culture’s unique dishes. Nimji has been cooking for her family for over 60 years and this book features her most treasured favourites. Each recipe is communicated with care so that cooks can continue the legacy of signature dishes being passed down through the generations – whether as a cultural touchstone for the Ismaili or lately as a discovery of new flavours by those not familiar with its nuances.

9780995135926  $34.95 hc  A Spicy Touch

Cibo Okanagan
From Our Kitchen to Yours
Nicole Gable

Cibo in Italian means “food” and chef Nicole Gable shares favourite recipes from her family’s Villa Rosa Ristorante, one of the Okanagan’s top Italian restaurants for over 10 years. Beautiful photographs illustrate mouth-watering, easy-to-follow classic Italian recipes from appetizers to entrees and desserts.

9780993241417  $26.95 hc  Villa Rosa Ristorante

Granny Get Your Glue Gun
How to Have Fun with Your Grandchildren
Maureen Goulou & Diana Budden

Named in the top 10 best books of 2017 for grandparents by Grand Magazine. Get creative with kids and crafts this winter! Two wanna-be grannies give you their tips for making everything from wine cork boats, to fun in the kitchen (chocolate cake in a mug), great games to play (dancing ping pong balls, a treasure hunt) or how to make an easy birdfeeder.

9780994410704  $19.95 pb  MADI Publishing

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Shelley Adams

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10 BC BOOKWORLD WINTER 2017-2018
IN MAY OF 2005, A TEAM OF Canadian mountaineers became trapped by an extratropical cyclone on Mt. Logan (5959 m), Canada's highest peak. Now fans of suspense and action in mountaineering literature need look no further than Surviving Logan for a gripping read. This memoir is co-authored by Cathi Shaw and her cousin and climber Erik Bjarnason, a career firefighter in the North Vancouver City Fire Department and a volunteer member of the North Shore Rescue (NSR). It describes Bjarnason's recovery from a disfiguring disability caused by severe frostbite. In this multi-faceted book, Cathi Shaw's foreword also describes Erik Bjarnason's Icelandic origins. Oddly, she reports having "strange dreams of the cold and the sound of howling winds" just as her cousin was undergoing his near-death experience.

THE EXPEDITION FOR MT. LOGAN was made up of a crack team of experienced NSR volunteers and elite mountaineers from Vancouver. Mt. Logan, in contrast to North Shore mountains, is wild and remote, in the Yukon's St. Elias Range, some 175 km north of the border with B.C.

Its first recorded ascent was in 1925. Today it remains without airborne rescue service at high elevation in Kluane National Park. Mountain climbers rely on themselves, but this has a double meaning. Surviving Logan recounts how and why three climbers had to cling to Prospector Col for sheer survival when besieged by cyclone-force winds of 140 km/h. Bjarnason literally freezes to a rock. But he survives thanks to unexpected and timely intervention from search-and-rescue (SAR) personnel involving Vancouver NSR, Alaska Air Guard, Denali National Park, Parks Canada, and the RCMP.

Along the way Surviving Logan captures the beauty and brilliance of glaciers and high altitudes as the team skis up the King Trench. We get inside Bjarnason's mind in the opening half of the book as he reflects on his children and family in ways not often found in high-altitude thrillers. He atones for past mistakes and hopes they remember him, a sentiment expressed near death and again in survival. Bjarnason fights his way back against the storm, the mountain, and his own sense of self, but there's also a tale of sexist and discriminatory institutions as well as bullying. Bjarnason also speaks to the caring of his fellow climbers, an admirable trait infrequent in hypermasculine climbing stories. This unforgettable high-altitude mountain adventure serves as a shout-out to the dedicated work of North Shore Rescue volunteers and many first responders.

Later, in despair, Erik Bjarnason is confined to hospitals and a burn unit during multiple surgeries to rebuild his hands. Hope returns with renewed outings to Mt. Seymour and his determination to climb again. Meanwhile conventional masculinity is persistent and hampers his own beliefs about manhood and disability. Bjarnason trains tirelessly to prove himself to the fire department and, in doing so, confronts obstacles often faced by women—physical adaptations to operating equipment, jeers about his inferior body, and responsibilities as a single parent on the job. Ultimately, his return to active service as a firefighter is limited due to his reconstructed hands. His union and a few good men help him win the day down at the fire hall. In the background, his insightful Icelandic-Canadian mother and relatives help him push forward, to climb again and to resume a new normal. Only a year after his injuries, he climbs Mt. Elbrus, Russia, on Canada Day 2006, with quiet and caring support from his NSR rope mates.

-surviving-logan

NEAR DEATH ON CANADA'S EVEREST Desperation strikes Erik Bjarnason on Mt. Logan in the Yukon, as recalled in a page-turner about hypermasculinity, triumph over adversity and compassion.

surviving-logan

by Cathi Shaw and Erik Bjarnason
(Rocky Mountain Books $28)
Bard on the Beach has become an institutionalized success story.

All The World's a Stage: The Story of Vancouver's Bard on the Beach by Jayne Seagrave (Heritage House $29.95)

BY GINNY RATSOY

DAVID, WRITER AND ACADEMIC

Jayne Seagrave communicates her adoration of Bard on the Beach and its founder and leader, Christopher Gaze, in All The World's a Stage: The Story of Vancouver's Bard on the Beach.

Founded in 1990 with a production of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream in a rented tent, the Bard on the Beach Theatre Society now produces four of Shakespeare's plays a year at its two outdoor stages in Vancouver's Vanier Park, with a backdrop of English Bay and the North Shore Mountains. Audiences totalling 100,000 now attend 300 performances across the four months of summer.

All the World's a Stage affords a rare opportunity for a theatre company to publicize its archives beyond the walls of a building or to make sense of a program's history. Handsome, neatly organized, and accessible to a general audience, the book is easy to read, with photographs showcasing the Vancouver landscape, Vanier Park, and productions from Bard's inception to the present.

Seagrave employs a dramatic pattern of organization: the chapters are arranged into five acts (complete with scenes) that are complemented by a foreword, prologue, epilogue, and appendices. Liberally sprinkled with Shakespeare's words, Seagrave's book is easy on the eyes and ears.

Act One: Scene One, entitled "The Protagonist: Christopher Gaze," establishes Gaze as the full-blown hero that Seagrave describes Gaze as the full-blown hero that

Seagrave chronicles Gaze's "blue-blood" upbringing in England, his theatrical influence on him, and the inception of Bard on the Beach. After interviewing over forty people, she concludes, "everyone I spoke to loves Christopher Gaze."

The epilogue summarizes Sea- grave's take on the reasons for the success of Bard on the Beach, a hit with Bard fans.          9781772031768
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Donald B. Smith, University of Calgary

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In this book, David E. Smith analyzes the interconnectedness of Canada’s parliamentary institutions and argues that Parliament is a unity comprised of three parts and any reforms made to one branch will, whether intended or not, affect the other branches.

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14 BC BOOKWORLD WINTER 2017-2018
This is how and where I first encountered outdoors enthusiast, environmental campaigner and fisherman, Jim Cooperman, in 2010, when a record sockeye run was painting the Adams River red, and people from around the world were fanned out along its banks to experience a magnificent bounty in Rod-
erick Haig-Brown Park near Salmon Arm. Jim Cooperman has lived at nearby Lee Creek for 48 years. He recently explained to CBC Radio that he was faced with a decision in 1969: “Go to jail, Vietnam or Canada —which would you choose?”

Cooperman headed north, built a log home with his wife, and raised five children. In addition to working at teaching, log home building and environmental advocacy, he began writing an outdoors column called Shuswap Pas-

tion for the Shuswap Market News, a personal dispatch mainly about environmental stewardship. Now, after a dozen years, his column has shapeshift-
ed into a 240-page book, Everything Shuswap, spanning geographic and hu-

man history: geology, ecosystems, watersheds, early contact with Sec-

wepemc people and the tide of fur trad-

ers, gold-seekers and pioneers who followed.

Once promoted as the “New Eldorado” to prospective fruit farmers in Europe and the U.S., the Shuswap landscape has been shaped by industrial development, dams, logging and agriculture.

Some of its finest features have also been preserved in provincial parks, like Hu-

nakwa Lake, “arguably the largest unnailed, protected wilderness lakes in the inte-

rior of North America at low
domination in local decision-making...

“The Shuswap is well-sit-

tuated to achieve bioregional objectives, as this region is

blessed with rich farmland, plentiful and clean sources of

water, a stellar cultural scene, stunning landscapes, and many close-knit communities.”

To shape the early contact period, Jim Cooperman draws on detailed writings of ethnog-

rapher James Teit (who later

nominated for a Nobel Prize

in 1866, named first settler at Enderby

watersheds, early

culture). The aptly-

named first settler at Enderby in 1866, Alexander Fortune

reported said, “Thank God—

this is better than gold.”

Arguably most extraordi-

nary was Neskonlith Chief

George Manuel who sur-

vived residential school in Kamloops and later rose to prominence with the National

Indian Brotherhood to become the first president of the

university, World Council of Indigenous Peoples. He was

nominated for a Nobel Prize three times.

Pioneer conserva-

tionist Scotty Mitchell worked at Granite Creek Hatchery and one hundred years ago he did not want a halt to fishing until the stocks recovered and, “criticized the early settlers

who pitch forked wagonloads of salmon to fertilize their

crops and who wantonly shot the hawks and ospreys that prayed on the ling cod.”

It’s often said that British Columbia is remarkable for its geographic diversity; with a foreword by Alan Haig-Brown, Everything Shuswap makes a

convincing case for better under-

standing and appreciation of one of this province’s best

kept secrets.

Set your compass—or

GPS—for the Shuswap.

Mark Forsythe is the former

host of CBC Radio’s Almanac.

AN ELDORADO UNTO ITSELF

Most British Columbians aren’t familiar with the Shuswap. They drive through it, or think it’s all about speed boats, houseboats and ATVs.
Charles Edenshaw was the foremost Northwest Coast Indigenous artist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a master of the argillite medium. His work is characterized by its complexity and technical skill, as well as its deep cultural significance. Edenshaw's art was not only a reflection of his time but also a means of preserving and transmitting Haida cultural heritage. His works often depict themes from Haida mythology, such as the creation story of Raven Walking. Through his art, Edenshaw sought to maintain the traditions and values of his people amidst the challenges of colonialism and cultural change. His work continues to be admired for its beauty and its insights into Haida culture and history.
AN ACCOMPLISHED JOURNALIST and author of nine previous books, including his classic, Chiwid (New Star, 1995), Sage Birchwater is one of a small group of writers like Paul St. Pierre, Chris Czajkowski, and Irene Stangoe to focus on the Cariboo Chilcotin region.

When he was about to leave Williams Lake for “the Chilcotin wilderness” as a young man, Sage Birchwater was advised by playwright Gwen Pharis Ringwood to “keep a record.”

Now Chilcotin Chronicles is Birchwater’s copiously illustrated attempt to do just that.

In addition to his own photographs, Birchwater includes a generous selection of archival photographs including portraits by Frank Swannell, Cliff Kopas, and a superb photograph of Old George Turner.

The anthology contains thirty stories and anecdotes framed by four “Contact” narratives, and an afterword, together with an account of reconciliation in relation to the Chinlac massacre. There are comprehensive timelines and Birchwater acknowledges the publishers of Stew Magazine in Williams Lake, where many of the stories first appeared in print.

FOR CHILCOTIN CONNECTION

Sage Birchwater’s

"There was always a sense of mystery about Old George Turner (above) which he took to the grave with him. And dozens of rumours. One mean little tale is that he killed his father-in-law Chief One-Eye because the old chief didn’t want him marrying his daughter Louisa One-Eye. I don’t believe this for a moment. Old Turner asked to be buried next to the old man at One-Eye Lake, which suggests reverent respect, not contempt." —Sage Birchwater
Aquaponics affords harvests year-round.

by Adrian Southern and Whelm King
(Neew Society $39.99)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

Part a Canadian-owned fish farm near Seattle broke apart in August, eco-activists and First Nations leaders once again had to remind us that farmed fish can spread diseases to wild Pacific stocks and also weaken them through crossbreeding. More than 160,000 farm-raised Atlantic salmon escaped, and lots of ’em decided they, too, didn’t want to live any longer in the Excited States. All the more reason to care about a food growing system called aquaponics.

Having experimented for three years before starting Raincoast Aquaponics in 2012, Adrian Southern has co-written The Aquaponic Farmer: A Complete Guide to Building and Operating a Commercial Aquaponic System to spread the word about an ancient method of raising fish (aquaculture) together with growing vegetables in nutrient-rich water (hydroponics).

“The Aztecs had advanced techniques of aquaponic farming called Chinampas,” he says, “that involved creating islands and canals to raise both fish and plants. This system of sediments never required manual watering, achieving up to seven harvests per year for certain plants.”

Now Southern is growing vegetables and raising rainbow trout in a 36-foot x 80-foot greenhouse in the Cowichan Valley with his company co-owned by his co-author Whelm King. Annually they’re producing approximately 30,000 heads of “vibrant, delicious lettuce” and 750 kg of tender pink trout, using a closed loop system that is waste-free. “All the fish wastes are either used by the plants or processed into liquid fertilizer for sale,” Southern says, “and all the crop compost is fed to pigs and recycled into garden beds for producing other crops that can’t be grown hydroponically.

“We raise pigs almost entirely on compost and produce fish fertilizer that we bottle and sell to local farmers and gardeners.” Southern—who now makes his living selling his products at the year-round Duncan Farmers Market, as well as to Duncan’s strictly vegetarian Garlic Café and occasionally through the Cow-op—got his start in traditional farming in Nanaimo, selling at local farmers markets. The work was physically demanding and not very profitable.

“I calculated I was earning about $2 per hour,” he says. Then in 2009, Southern toured the Fisheries and Aquaculture program at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. The school had recently set up a small aquaponics system as a demonstration for the concept. With aquaponics, he realized he could raise both plants and fish sustainably, all year round, with water use cut by 90% or more, without arable land, without weeds.

“It was a moment of epiphany that would change my life,” he says. “I was immediately hooked. I knew my days as an urban soil farmer were over.”

978-0-896571-858-6

Beverly Cramp is associate editor at BC BookWorld.

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A 12-20 ON THE MORNING of September 16, 1992, an intruder, high on drugs, broke into the Calgary home of Dr. Geoffrey Cragg, a resident in orthopaedic surgery, and brutally stabbed him.

The nine-year-old Carys Cragg, the eldest of the doctor’s four children looked downstairs at the bloody scene and, following her mother’s instructions, called 9-1-1. Her mother was familiar with restorative justice and understood how to launch into a full account. She received documents detailing her communication with the family. And there is a set that her contacts may want a heads-up about that.”

As the letters go back and forth between British Columbia and the minimum security institution in Drumheller, Alberta, the prisoner is transformed in her mind from a ghost-like entity to a human being who becomes clearer each time he writes. He writes fluently and she determines him. Was that a random or a deliberate choice? By a strange coincidence, it had been her father who was the emergency physician who once treated him in the hospital after he was injured in a car accident.

The dramatic climax in Dead Reckoning, as one might wait for the autopsy report after the death of a murdered father, is anticipated nervously as well as True Crime/ Biography/ Memoir. It combines the suspense and mystery of the first trials and the corresponding resumes only to increase her frustration. Yet she realizes that his inability to tell the whole truth comes from shame at what he has done.

Later, along with her mother, she attends a parole hearing, which is unsuccessful. A second one is successful and this time she concludes that finally his remorse is deep and genuine.

This book is characterized as jargon (the profession strikes a deliberate choice? But it is not over. In retrospect, she feels that he still hasn’t accepted full responsibility for his crime; after 138 days she writes to him and the correspondence resumes only to increase her frustration. Yet she realizes that his inability to tell the whole truth comes from shame at what he has done.

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L
AST SEEN NINE YEARS ago in Charles Tidler’s novel, Going to New Orleans (Anvil Press, 2004), the itinerant, deranged horn-player named Lewis King is now pursuing a comically perverse love affair with the lubricious Ms Sugarlicq in Useless Things (REDACTED). Now on the cooler shores of Victoria, the passions of our protagonist still run hot as a W.C. Handy riff.

Into his late sixties, Lewis is trying to acquire the sage-like calm supposedly conferred by age and wisdom, but his mojo ain’t workin’. His current squeeze, Lostlove, has dumped him for a pedal-jock he refers to as Bicycle Boy. He is one of those obnoxiously athletic dudes who roll on European racing bikes and show off their junk in tight black spandex shorts that a guy Lewis’s age would describe as ‘panty-girdles.’

Despite her sexual treachery, Lostlove still wants to “be friends.” Lewis reacts the way most of us do when mustered to that leaky lifeboat.

Much of this story explores the way phone answering machines, caller ID and building access control systems are used as tools of power in relationships. Lewis employs them all as a way of punishing Lostlove by controlling and reducing her access to him.

The title? Well, achieving serenity by refusing to be distracted by useless things is a basic teaching of Lewis’ chosen spiritual master, the 13th century Chinese sage, Wumen Huikai, compiler of zen koans and author of The Gateless Gate, who once wrote, “If useless things do not hang in your mind, any season is a good season for you.”

Ironically, it is “things,” techno-gadgets, that initially appear to give Lewis more control of his life, eliminating distraction created by emotions, the ultimate “useless things.” “It’s a nice irony of the novel that the virtual armour of our social-media-saturated society turns out to be tinfoil when human beings confront each other in the flesh.

The redactions embedded in the text are more than just a gaff to make the pages visually interesting. Crude horizontal blots of black ink are familiar to readers used to perusing redacted documents, from the Pentagon Papers to files accessed under freedom of information acts and Wikileaks.

Employed as a narrative tool in fiction, the blackouts reflect Lewis’s struggle to reduce his emotional suffering by redaction. The redactions in Useless Things subtly but significantly progress from truly irrelevant brand and place names at the beginning of the novel to emotionally-loaded words and phrases by the end.

A short novel, Useless Things is a card-cut challenge to writers to prove that less is more. Sixty thousand words is a verbal straight-jacket that leaves little wiggle-room for the leisurely plot and character development too often indulged in by contemporary novelists obsessed with narrative style, psychology or point of view; 19th century concepts that still seem to be the stock in trade of many creative writing programs.

Charles Tidler’s strength as a novelist is that he is a dramatist by trade, a working playwright whose tools are dialogue and action, a small but effective kit marked show, don’t tell in non-redacting highlighter.

Charles Tidler grew up in Indiana, but has lived in B.C. since 1969.

John Moore writes from Garibaldi Highlands.

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VS. FRIENDSHIP
Jazz riffs from a leaky lifeboat...

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Inspired by stone arrangements by Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr. Margriet Ruur’s unlikely best-seller Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey (Orca $20), republished worldwide, has raised more than $65,000 to support refugee resettlement organizations across North America.

Travis Lupick’s Fighting for Space: How a Group of Drug Users Transformed One City’s Struggle with Addiction (Arsenal $24.95) highlights the upside of the Downtown Eastside, how residents have helped drug users get basic housing, clean needles and a supervised injection site to save lives.

The Ferryboat Ride (Nightwood $9.95) has been re-released as a board book. Greta Guezek’s illustrations for The Ferryboat Ride and the Ferryboat Ride Colouring Book have made those titles into bestselling children’s titles on the BC Ferries, with rhyming text by Robert Perry.

After Saul Holiff committed suicide in Nanaimo in 2005, a vast archive about his client Johnny Cash was left in a storage locker. Nanaimo journalist Julie Chadwick has revealed how the singer’s rise to fame owed much to the guidance of his unheralded Canadian manager in The Man Who Carried Cash: Saul Holiff, Johnny Cash, and the Making of an American Icon (Dundurn $19.95).

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BC Ferries

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By Ginny Ratsoy

When the Point Grey constabulary entered the laundry room of the posh Shaughnessy Heights home of Vancouver export dealers Frederick Baker in 1924, they found a bullet hole in the head of Janet Smith and a gun near the corpse’s hand.

The first official verdict of suicide was met with disdain by the media, the public, and, particularly, the local Scottish community. There were indications that police and other officials were inept.

Bowing to public pressure, officials had Smith’s body exhumed and held another inquest, which concluded that Smith had been murdered, but could not ascertain by whom. The media and public remained unsatisfied, many suspecting the Bakers.

WHY FRANCIS IS NO SAINT

Brother, Where art thou, in 1990s Scarborough, Ontario

Brother by David Chariandy (McClelland & Stewart $25)

BY CHERIE THIESSEN

D

avid Chariandy’s second novel, Brother, like his first, is embedded in his Caribbean roots, but the difficult and marginal existence of his characters is fictional. The two main characters, Michael and his brother Francis, were born in Canada, the offspring of a doomed marriage of their father and mother left Trinidad, presumably in search of a better life. The elder brother, Francis, was only three and Michael, the narrator, a year younger, when their father abandoned them, leaving his exhausted and unskilled wife to fend for herself and her sons.

The father still lives in the same city, Toronto, but the boys never see him again. Years later, when the brothers track him down, he refuses to acknowledge or see them. The mother is too worn out for rage; she can’t afford it. Travelling to her cleaning jobs and trying to keep her two boys from being toughs is all she can manage. Michael, the peacekeeper, is a gentle and generous soul who adores his sibling and who recognizes that the rage fomenting in Francis is dangerous.

They live in Scarborough, east of Toronto, growing up in the 80s with labeling by neighbours and police as ‘ragamuffins,’ ‘hoogans’ and ‘gangsters’ as they raid dumpers and sink into forbidden places to spy and explore, snowballing cars in winter and climbing trees in summer.

With no money for ice cream or comics, they’re hounded out of shops and carefully watched elsewhere. A sense of their favourite hangouts is also their mother’s, the Rouge Valley, a wild patch of nature and debris where they can’t be found without judgment or fear.

Francis has nightmares. A bright boy, he knew how to read at seven and, much to his younger brother’s awe, could also read faces. Francis kept them both safe in dangerous places. He can’t, however, keep himself safe from the demon rage growing within him.

“And as Francis began to approach adulthood, he grew dissatisﬁed with the world and with his destined place in it,” Chariandy writes.

By 18, Francis has been expelled from school and begins to hang out with older boys who Michael doesn’t know, frequenting a fringe barbershop ﬁlled with boys supposedly known to police. This barber-shop hangout and these friends, labeled as shady and ‘no good,’ are the most positive things in his life.

When violence explodes outside their apartment, and both boys are witness to it, the broth- ers are roughly picked up and taken to the police station for questioning. Even though they’re innocent, the police search them thoroughly, viewing them suspiciously as criminal. Tired of being harassed by the police, tired of being labeled as a gangster and a thug, Francis is headed for a fall.

We see his anger when Michael was picked up by the police. It will erupt when he and his close friend, Jelly, are routinely dismissed when auditioning for a music contest they have worked so hard to win.

Ten Years Ago, When David Chariandy’s debut novel, Boulevard (Arsenal Pulp), was nomi- nated for ten literary prizes, including being shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award and longlisted for the Giller prize, he said he already knew the plot and the title of his second book. So the in- cubation for Brother has been slow and very, very carefully wrought.

The story vacillates between the 80s and the 90s, when Michael is a young man, still living at home while working and caring for his stricken mother who has yet to get over some unre- vealed horrors—likely something to do with Francis.

The attractive Al- sha arrives, invited by Michael to stay with him and his mother while she attends the funeral of her father. She and Michael once were lovers. As she re-acquaints herself with the neighbourhood that she ﬂed years ago, she begins to get on his nerves with her insistence that there are better ways to look after his mother.

With flashbacks, we begin to learn about what happened with Francis. He has acted aggressively, challenging the status quo even when he knew he’d pay the price in a beating, but Francis’ most unwise act was protecting his friends, jelly and Frank, instinctively, just as he has always done with his brother.

For Francis and his mar- ginalized friends in the To- ronto of the 1990s, the best redemption came from their music. This was a time when rap went mainstream, when DJs were replaced by pre- recorded tracks, when innova- tors and sound houses found, assembled, and created their own mixes.

It was a brave new world and Francis and his friend Jelly were in the middle of it, working with cross-faders and equalizers to connect one style with another, across coun- tries and across time. Their passion, their dedication and their skill, entitled them to succeed.

But… “I’ve set my novel in the early nineties,” Chariandy writes in a foreword, “when a group of young black men and their allies found shelter for themselves in old music and the new technologies of sound.” He hopes, “... that my novel will help reveal how toughened young people, too often viewed as threats, have nevertheless bravished great acts of tenderness and love.”

978-0-7710-2290-6

Cherie Thiessen reviews from Pender Island.
DECK THE SHELVES

First, We Brunch
Recipes and Stories from Victoria’s Best-Loved Breakfast Joints
Rebecca Wellman
Victoria is the official brunch capital of Canada. Whether you’re looking for a budget breakky, jonesing for a hearty vegan breakfast, or desperate for a day in, this gorgeous new guide—featuring stories and recipes from more than 60 of Victoria’s most celebrated eateries—will satisfy all of your mid-morning hunger pangs.
TouchWood Editions | $30 hc | $12.99 ebook

Italy
Recipes for Olive Oil and Vinegar Lovers (#1)
Emily Lycopolus, photography by DL Acken
Flavoured olive oils and balsamic vinegars can take your Italian cooking to the next level. Whip up authentic bruschetta, pasta, panna cotta, and more with just four specialty products and this beautiful new cookbook.
TouchWood Editions | $22 hc | $12.99 ebook

Greece
Recipes for Olive Oil and Vinegar Lovers (#2)
Emily Lycopolus, photography by DL Acken
Take the guesswork out of Greek cuisine with this brand new cookbook. With just two olive oils and two balsamic vinegars and this brand new cookbook, you’ll be whipping up classic dishes like calamari and baklava in no time.
TouchWood Editions | $22 pb | $10.08 ebook

An Old, Cold Grave
A Lane Winslow Mystery (#4)
Iona Whishaw
When her neighbours discover skeletal remains in their root cellar, Lane Window must dig into the past of King’s Cove to uncover the sordid details of a cold-case murder.
TouchWood Editions | $10.05 pb | $7.99 ebook

On Island
Life Among the Coast Dwellers
Pat Carney
Written by long-time islander and former politician Pat Carney, this collection of short stories celebrates the characters and dramas that capture life in small coastal communities.
TouchWood Editions | $10.05 pb | $7.99

Backcountry Avalanche Safety—4th Edition
A Guide to Managing Avalanches Black
Tony Dafern
With colour photos, charts and graphs, this new edition is essential reading for all outdoor enthusiasts who venture into mountainous terrain where avalanches are common.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $25 pb

Snowshoe Trails in Southwestern British Columbia
Allan Baker and Tony Keen
With this full colour guidebook, outdoor enthusiasts interested in stepping out of their skis and into a pair of snowshoes will be able to find some of British Columbia’s most enjoyable trails.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $30 pb

Andrew J. Nagara
This second edition has almost doubled in content and now describes 75+ great treks for new or beginner snowshoers. Features colour photos and maps.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $30 pb

Snowshoeing in the Canadian Rockies—2nd Edition
Andrew J. Nagara
Featuring colour photos and maps, this new edition describes 100+ great routes for snowshoers of all levels who are looking for new challenges.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $35 pb

The Hundred-Year Trek
A History of Student Life at UBC
Shelden Goldfarb
Archivist Sheldon Goldfarb delves deep into the annals of the Alma Mater Society to create this amazing timeline of student life on BC’s oldest university campus.
Heritage House | $32.05 pb

Morrison
The Longest Monument of Canada’s Artillery Commander in the Great War
Edward Morrison; Susan Ruby-Dunne (ed.)
A gripping account of life on the Western Front by the Ottawa journalist who rose to the top ranks of the Canadian Army Corps.
Heritage House | $22.05 pb | $17.09 ebook

Lace Up
A History of Skates in Canada
Jean-Marie Leduc and Julie Léger
Renowned skate expert Jean-Marie Leduc traces the history of the humble skate and its role in our national imagination.
Heritage House | $16.95 pb | $12.99 ebook

Up in Arms
Ananda Spottiswoode
Illustrated by Molly March
The communities of Tofino and Alert Bay circa 1940 are featured in this rollicking adventure about a group of British children sent to BC for safe haven during the war.
Heritage House | $16.95 pb | $12.99 ebook
**Meteor shower of praise**

The Meteoric Rise of Vancouver-born Eliza Robertson began in 2013 when she accepted the Commonwealth Short Story Prize from John le Carré at the Hay Festival in Wales for a story that had been published in Granta. The New York Times subsequently dubbed her first story collection, Wallflowers (Hamish Hamilton, 2014), as “captivating” and she became a finalist for the CBC Short Story Prize and Journey Prize. Even though she was a novice author, she was invited to numerous literary festivals.

So the pump is well primed for Demi-Gods (Hamish Hamilton/ Bloomsbury $29.95), a debut novel in which we follow the relationship between a step-sister and a menacing, step-brother into an adult landscape of sexually charged malevolence, set partially on Salt Spring Island during the 1950s and ‘60s.

Eliza Robertson became fascinated with the era after looking over her family archives, as she confided in an excellent interview with Shelagh Rogers on CBC’s The Next Chapter.

**Kat Rose Catalogue**

Captivating tales about 
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_The Loss_ of Ryleigh Carter struggles to maintain a positive attitude after a break up leaves her pregnant and alone, at a crossroads in her life.

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_A Father’s Daughter_ of Abigail’s need to help her younger sister Cara after a break up leaves her pregnant and alone, at a crossroads in her life.

ISBN: 978-1926743981
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Publisher: Kat Rose
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_Bad Endings_ of Jo-Ann Roberts is a cinematic noir-like novel featuring a large and mysterious protagonist called The Carpenter, a fixer, mediator and manipulator of Montreal. 978-1988130477

Price: $12.99
Size: 6x9
Pages: 246

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_The Carpenter_ of George Fetherling, a perceptive, ghostly tale after a tragedy claims a life. Two long lost lovers struggle to overcome their grief and struggle to find their way back to each other.

ISBN: 978-91-1764-180-4 | $19.95
Publication date: 2017
Publisher: Kat Rose
Format: Trade Paperback

**Building it Up_**

A perceptive, ghostly tale after a tragedy claims a life. Two long lost lovers struggle to overcome their grief and struggle to find their way back to each other.

ISBN: 978-91-1764-180-4 | $19.95
Publication date: 2017
Publisher: Kat Rose
Format: Trade Paperback

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Publication date: 2017
Publisher: Kat Rose
Format: Trade Paperback
**FAULT LINES**

**UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF EARTHQUAKES**

Johanna Wagstaffe

"Thorough, engaging, and accessible."
— Kirkus Reviews

"Excellent."
— School Library Journal

"A colorful, useful introduction to earthquakes."
— Booklist

**GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!**

Feb. 16, 2018

Chinese New Year: A Celebration for Everyone

From acclaimed author and CBC Radio One personality Jen Sookfong Lee

"Kids who think they know about this holiday will be surprised at the new things they learn."
— Booklist

"Lee capably conveys the diverse, dynamic nature of this holiday, from past to present to future. A thoughtful, thorough reference."
— Kirkus
W hen Maia Caron’s father was a child, he would find old bullet cartridges in his great-grandfather’s fields in Batoche, Saskatchewan. His mother threw them away, saying, “We had nothing to do with those rebel Métis.”

For generations, that’s how it went. Louis Riel, the Métis leader of the so-called North-West Rebellion, was vilified as a traitor in government propaganda and school materials—that is if the Métis of Manitoba and Saskatchewan were mentioned at all.

Few people knew or cared that Riel, a federal MP and spokesperson for the Métis of Red River, was responsible for bringing the area into Confederation as Canada’s fifth province in 1870. He also negotiated the Manitoba Act, which promised the Métis 1.4 million acres of land. When delays, ineptitude, and speculation denied them their land, entire Métis families, including the Carons, were dispersed to Batoche, in the North-West Territories.

When Prime Minister John A. Macdonald wanted rich agricultural land to be farmed by European settlers, the Métis fought for what was rightfully theirs. When outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and the demands of the unrelenting Catholic Church. Many Métis families fled the area, but Jean Caron Sr. and his children remained until 1943, hiding their Métis identity to avoid racism and discrimination. Maia Caron’s father was born and grew up in Batoche.

In 2010, Maia Caron told BC BookWorld, “I came across Wallace Stegner’s autobiography, Wilf/Wilus,” in which he says the story of the North-West Resistance. The 400-acre Métis settlement from the 1880s was the stuff of an epic and should be told. “I took this as a challenge. I knew I had to tell the story,” she says. “My grandmother didn’t want us to know, that we were those rebel Métis.”

Up until 1980, Maia Caron hadn’t even been told she was Métis. “But my first attempt at research was like going down the rabbit hole. The Canadian government broke the Métis Nation in Batoche and the story is tragic. I could hear my great-great-grandmother, Marguerite Caron-Dumas, whispering their secrets to me, but it was too painful to consider writing about them; I put it away.”

Her desire to write her debut novel, Song of Batoche, was also kindled by a memoir her great-grandmother, Madeleine Dumont, who had lived during the Rebellion, describing her burdens. A priest told her to bear the suffering, but she knew she had to write down her secrets. After reading the memoir, it would take Caron five years of research and writing to complete her task.

“Only when John A. Macdonald refused to respond to the petition, and the Métis government learnt that Ottawa had sent a delegation led by Gabriel Dumont arrived to ask him to return to Canada to help the Méts write a petition for their legal rights. Riel came with his wife and two children, with no arms or ammunition on a peaceful mission.”

In Song of Batoche, Caron takes the reader to the South Saskatchewan plains where the Métis struggle against drought, illness, extreme heat and cold, crop failures, prejudice and the demands of the unrelenting Catholic Church. Only when John A. Macdonald refused to respond to the petition, and the Métis government learnt that Ottawa had sent a delegation led by Gabriel Dumont, did the Métis decide that they had to fight to protect their lands, resulting in the three-month-long North-West Resistance. They held off Métis men, women and many more, Caron writes the character of the féisty and intuitive Josette Lavoie, far too bright for her own good, as the fictional heroine. Only aspects of her relationships with Riel and the military leader Gabriel Dumont veer from the historical records. Here is a well-paced story including dynamic characters and a strong sense of place. It is the women who take us deep into Riel’s dream of a new North-West, with his own church at its head. The Batoche Historic Site hosted Caron’s book launch, and a tour of Song of Batoche at the former home of her great-great-grandfather, Jean Caron, Sr., was given in her honor.

Her father attended, wearing a Métis sash for the first time on their ancestral homeland.

Maia Caron (at left) and her great-grandfather Jean Caron, Sr. (above) in Batoche in the 1930s. Her father’s house was destroyed on the first day of the Battle of Batoche in 1885.

Maia Caron’s autobiog-
Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws
Yérlí7 xe Stsíleý's-kucw
Marianne Ignace and Ronald E. Ignace
Cloth • 528pp

“I couldn’t put this book down! A masterpiece of multidisciplinary research on the Secwépemc Nation’s history from the Ice Age to the present: science and archival records serve to back up the volume’s primary source of knowledge, the oral narratives and shared memories of the Secwépemc people. These accounts go deeper than science, to the moral lessons of how the humans and the land we live on should relate to each other. Only the Ignaces could write a book of this magnitude, based on their lifetimes of research while living Secwépemc lives as well.”
Leanne Hinton, University of California, Berkeley

Slow War
Benjamin Hertwig
Paperback • 136pp

Shortlisted for the Governor-General’s Literary Award for Poetry, 2017

“Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder was once called ‘soldier’s heart.’ The term may not be scientifically precise, but it’s metaphorically apt. Benjamin Hertwig served in the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan, and this hard-hitting debut collection is the record of a soldier’s heart, before, during and after war.”
Toronto Star

The Campbell Revolution?
Power, Politics, and Policy in British Columbia
Edited by J. R. Lacharite and Tracy Summerville
Paperback • 368pp • cloth available

More than just a narrative of the career of an enigmatic public official, this book looks at specific public policy examples and asks whether Campbell led a revolution or simply rode a wave of change that had begun years before he came to power.

Imprint
A braided narrative, Imprint is testimony of the psychic journey Sicherman underwent to integrate all aspects of herself: a woman, a wife, and a mother, she is also the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of those who survived and did not survive the Holocaust. There is no way Imprint will not imprint itself upon every single person who decides to read it.

— Sarah Elizabeth Schantz
author of Fig

In interwoven lists, letters to [her son] Ben, journal entries, memoir and story, Sicherman examines and then interrogates her family history and her own experience in that sharp and beautiful way that only writers who work in the spaces between genre can do. Imprint is about Sicherman’s ancestors, about Sicherman herself, about generational trauma, about the lingering ghosts of the specific event of the Holocaust, about how important it is that we do not forget. Sicherman’s first book bears witness to that inheritance—and to the possibilities for healing.

— Sarah Hahn Campbell, author of Grief Map

resilience, resilience, resilience
STORIES OF SURVIVAL AND RENEWAL

CAITLIN PRESS — WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL
HOME TO DAGGER EDITIONS

resilience, resilience, resilience
STORIES OF SURVIVAL AND RENEWAL

CAITLIN PRESS — WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL
HOME TO DAGGER EDITIONS
With Mexican and aboriginal Tsilhqot’in ancestors, Lisa Charleyboy, raised in Abbotsford, has co-edited #NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women with Mary Beth Leatherdale. This young adult anthology demonstrates how Indigenous women can break down stereotypes through essays, stories, music, poetry, and art. Charleyboy dedicates her book, “For every Indigenous woman who has ever been called ‘Pocahontas’.”

“I came to terms with what it meant to be an Indigenous woman in my twenties, around the same time as the trial of a male serial killer who targeted vulnerable Indigenous women dominated the news. I was shattered by the very presence of those headlines, because I knew that with one simple twist of fate, I myself could’ve been listed as one of the victims.

“I had spent most of my life up to that point filled with self-loathing and a sense of aimlessness. I hadn’t yet realized that the key to finding my direction was directly tied to my finding my place—and pride—as an Indigenous woman.

“Too often I’ve seen, we’ve all seen, those headlines that send shivers down spines, spin stereotypes to soaring heights, and ultimately shame Indigenous women. Yet when I look around me, I see so many bright, talented, ambitious Indigenous women and girls, full of light, laughter and love.”

Charleyboy has been named by The Huffington Post as one of three Aboriginal Millennials to watch, and her writing has appeared in The Guardian.

#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women
edited by Lisa Charleyboy & Mary Beth Leatherdale
(Annick $14.95)

BEYOND POCAHONTAS

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).

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

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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 Camelsfoot — a philosophical commune out back of beyond — glows with wisdom, complexity, and compassion.”
—Stephanie Mills, author of Epicurean Simplicity and In Service of the Wild

Find it now at newstarbooks.com

Anarchy Explained to My Father
FRANCIS DUPUIS-DÉRI & THOMAS DÉRI

“The best introduction to anarchism since Berkman’s 1929 classic Now and After: The ABC of Communist Anarchism. . . . Should be read by anyone who wonders what anarchism is, what it can be, and how we work towards it.”
—Mark Leier, author of Rebel Life

Find it now at newstarbooks.com

Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots
ERÍN MOURE

“A beautiful testimony to a life bravely lived on the edges of contemporary values.”
—Aaron Peck

The story of a man who had no obituary and no funeral and who would have left no trace if it weren’t for the woman he’d called Toots, who took everything she remembered of him and — for seven days — wrote it down.

Find it now at newstarbooks.com

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).”

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Find it now at newstarbooks.com
Shu-Li and the Magic Pear Tree
by Nicola Campbell
illustrated by Shaoli Wang

A Day with Yayah
by Nicola Campbell
illustrated by Julie Flett

On My Walk,
On My Bike and
On My Skis
by Kari-Lynn Winters
illustrated by Christina Leist

Shu-Li and the Magic Pear Tree
by Paul Yee
illustrated by Saehki Wang

The third book in the popular Paul Yee series about kids living in Vancouver’s Commercial Drive neighbourhood.

Leanne Lieberman addresses female desire in her YA novel in a way that feels both honest and non-judgmental.

The book felt very real to me—accurate in its emotional content. Its voice is poignant and believable. It reminded me of how perplexing it felt to fall in love for the first time.

I must also high-five Leanne Lieberman for the wonderful way she addresses the issue of female desire; it’s done in a way that feels both honest and non-judgmental. The Most Dangerous Thing is the story of a sensitive girl who successfully overcomes some pretty big life challenges, and in doing so, finds herself well on her way to discovering (and celebrating) who she really is.

Teens will relate to this story on many different levels. Those grappling with anxiety and self-esteem issues will most certainly find a kindred spirit in Sydney.

Carol Anne Shaw is the author of the “Hannah” books, from Ronsdale Press.
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SUSTENANCE: WRITERS FROM BC AND BEYOND ON THE SUBJECT OF FOOD
edited and with a Foreword by Rachel Rose
Sustenance: Writers from BC and beyond on the subject of food brings to the table some of Canada’s best contemporary writers, celebrating all that is unique about Vancouver’s literary and culinary scene. Sustenance is also a community response to the needs of new arrivals or low-income families in our city. Writers will be donating their honoria to the Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program.
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BAD ENDINGS
by Carleigh Baker
Winner: City of Vancouver Book Award Finalist: Rogers Trust Fiction Prize “In Bad Endings, Carleigh Baker has created a skillfully woven tapestry of stories, centre on strong, contemporary female characters battling for agency over their own lives. … These stories are not about happy endings—they are about powerful endings, and we found them nothing short of electrifying.” — 2017 Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize Jury

“Stumbling through the fog of loneliness, Carleigh Baker’s finely drawn characters find love in the particular intimacy afforded by ephemeral relationships. A renewal of connection with the more-than-human world offers the characters sustenance amidst the demands of an ever-accelerating city.” — City of Vancouver Book Award [Jury citation]
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“If there were a literary prize for most fascinating Canadian setting and central character, Long Kije Yellow, Martin West’s first novel would surely make the short list. … Martin West’s first story collection, Creatures & Other Stories, was published last year. He has twice been a Journey Prize finalist.” — The Toronto Star
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34 BC BOOKWORLD WINTER 2017-2018
WISHING ON A PEAR TREE

Times are troubling on The Drive

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

Schoolgirl Shu-Li’s best friend Tamara may have to move and leave her Commercial Drive school in Vancouver because her mother’s landlord put up the rent. Another friend, Diego, has a puppy with a stomach ailment. The dog keeps getting sick even though it is taking medication prescribed by a veterinarian. Neither of the girls can text their friends because they don’t have cell phones. When a fellow student named Joey tells them to text him, they have to admit they can’t. “Then get one,” Joey retorts. “Everyone has one.”

But Shu-Li and Tamara’s parents believe that people need time off computers and gadgets. It’s all part of the world of pre-teens created by Governor General Award-winning author Paul Yee in his new young adult fiction story, Shu-Li and the Magic Pear Tree. This is a prequel to his multi-cultural Shu-Li series illustrated by Shaoli Wang which includes Shu-Li and Diego (2009) and Shu-Li and Tamara (2007). The pear tree of the title is in the backyard of an elderly widow, Mrs. Rossi, to whom Shu-Li and Tamara read books as part of a volunteer program sponsored by their school. Mrs. Rossi tells Shu-Li and Tamara stories about magic pears that grow on her pear tree. One day, Diego goes with Shu-Li and Tamara to visit Mrs. Rossi. He brings his sick dog Paco who throws up, “a frothy mix of white and brown.” One of the pears falls on Diego’s head. He bites into it. “So sweet!” he says, as juice dribbles down his chin. By the time the children leave Mrs. Rossi’s house that day, Paco the dog is mysteriously better, much to everyone’s astonishment. Shu-Li begins to carry a few of the magic pears in her backpack. Tamara eats one of the pears. Within a day, her mother doesn’t have to leave the neighborhood. Turns out that Mrs. Rossi asks Tamara and her mother to move in with her. The rent is lower and they can help take care of the widow. Shu-Li believes the magic pears work in threes. Now she only has one magic pear left. She wants to use it to wish for a cell phone but thinks that is selfish. She gives it instead to Nika, a First Nations student, to help her with a hoop dance she is to perform at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. When Shu-Li and Tamara find out their school is on the list of those to be closed in Vancouver, they rush to find Nika to get that last pear back. Will they be in time to save their school? And is it really the magic pears at work? Paul Yee is a master storyteller, mixing current events that impact the lives of children with the wonder of magic realism. Or is it the healing power of hope and of communities working together that he is really writing about?

Tamara and Shu-Li reach Nika, however she has already been successful with her hula dance, making them believe the last wish was used up. “Shu-Li and Tamara sagged,” writes Yee. “Too late. The last wish was gone. But Nika wasn’t finished. I didn’t eat the pear, I practiced all weekend. This morning I told myself that if I believed in myself, then I’d get in. And that’s just what happened.” In the end, the whole class fights to save the school, putting on a demonstration and getting signatures on a petition. They address the school board and get the decision reversed. Perhaps the pears were magic. Yet Yee doesn’t reveal the answer, he ends his story with an enigmatic question: “Was it the magic pear or was it the extra work?”

Paul Yee is a master storyteller, mixing current events that impact the lives of children with the wonder of magic realism. Or is it the healing power of hope and of communities working together that he is really writing about? Beverly Cramp is associate editor at BC BookLook.

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D is for Dale

THE GAIL AND ANTON Schild mystery se-
ries by Carolyn Dale, a retired vet-
erinarian and flight instructor, now
includes Here Be Dragons (Carrick / Red Tuque $20.13)
which opens with a bloodstained knife being found on
the grounds of Drayford Agricultural
College, in Alberta. A professor has
been murdered in his home and Gail and Anton Schild are the prime sus-
ppects because they were his dinner
guests the night before. To prove their
innocence, their investigations take
them to sites in Alberta such as the
Drumheller dinosaur museum and the
hoodoos. Born in Drumheller, Dale
grew up in Northern Idaho and moved
to the Okanagan where she has been
involved in Habitat for Humanity and the
Anglican Church.

978-1-77230-436-7

C is for Crocker

ANGELA CROCKER OF PORT MOODY FIRST
published The Complete Idiot's Guide
to Creating a Social Network (Pen-
guin, 2011), a how-to book for
participating in an online community.
As a Com-
munity Creator she has now published
The Content Planner: A Com-
plete Guide to Organize and
Share Your Ideas Online
(Self-Counsel $17.55).

978-1-77312-369-2

E is for Edwards

GROWING UP IN LYTON, JOURNALIST
Peter Edwards' claim to fame in 1979
is for his girlfriend's
A is for Aligizakis

BORN IN THE VILLAGE OF KOLIMBARI ON THE
island of Crete in 1947, Manolis Aligi-
zakis moved with his family at a young
age to Thessaloniki and then to Athens,
where he received his Bachelor of Arts
in Political Sciences from the Panteion
University of Athens. After graduating
from the Panteion Supreme School of
Athenai, he served in the armed forces
for two years and immigrated to Van-
couver in 1973. In 2006 he founded
Libros Libertad, an independent pub-
lishing company in Surrey.

978-1-77142-091-7

B is for Blodgett

SINCE MOVING TO B.C., poet, translator and
literary historian E.D. Blodgett of
Surrey has maintained his associ-
tion with the Univer-
sity of Alberta Press.

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Cynthia Flood: “I hate being asked why I chose to be a writer, because choice wasn’t involved. If I didn’t write, life felt awful. However, as a single parent I worked full-time, so for years fiction got fitted in around the edges. After I retired, things opened up.”

Her first non-fiction title was Mom, Will This Chicken Give Me Man Boobs (Greystone, 2009). Now, with The Party, Harding has fully and probably irrevocably graduated from the chicklit ghetto with a feat of superb, chilling storytelling. It’s not rated PG, it is PG. Her screenplay, The Steps, was made into an independent feature film for which Harding was also the executive producer. It premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was the closing gala film at the Miami International Film Festival.

Rhonda Ganz describes how people behave in moments of intimacy and domesticity, often pairing the banal with the absurd “to expose the flaws of love—the frayed edges of belief and despair.” Born in Kenya, Ganz lives in Victoria where she works as a graphic designer and editor. She speaks German and can hold a conversation in Swahili.

Her first novel, Seeking Refuge (Tradewind, 1998), was made into a movie. Set in San Francisco, it starts with a good girl’s 16th birthday party with just a few girl-friends. We’ll say no more.

Betty Keller, main founder of the Festival of the Written Arts on the Sunshine Coast, also a prolific author and beloved as a writing coach, is this year’s recipient of the Gray Campbell Award to recognize outstanding contributions to the publishing and literary community. On the same evening, Rob Sanders of Greystone Books received the Jim Douglas Award for ongoing achievements as a book publisher. The Association of Book Publishers of B.C. presented the awards at a dinner held in Vancouver in September.
W O W S
BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER GRAPHIC NOVELIST
David Lester's The Listener (ARP, 2011) is featured in a chapter by Karen Jacobson in Challenging Stories: Canadian Literature for Social Justice in the Classroom (Canadian Scholars' Press $54.95).
The Listener contrasts the historical story of the last democratic election in Germany before Hitler became chancellor, and the fictional struggle of a disillusioned political artist searching for meaning in art. It is a cautionary tale of power, lies, memory and art. Karen Jacobson demonstrates innovative ways of how The Listener was used to teach social justice issues to secondary school students, saying “From the very first page, the book inspired thoughtful discussion about the place of social action in the students' own lives.”
Challenging Stories is edited by Anne Burke, Ingrid Johnston, and Angela Ward. Lester is currently working on his second graphic novel, chronicling the last year in the life of a feminist activist Emma Goldman, who died in Canada in 1940.

A Red Girl’s Reasoning by Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, one of the images in When Raven Became Spider (ARP $14.95).

N is for Nishihata
Jesse Nishihata was born indie Nishihata in 1929 in Vancouver, to immigrant Japanese parents, and spent his childhood on Powell Street, the former Japantown, where his father owned a tin metal shop. He was thirteen when all of that was shattered during WWII with the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
His family was expelled from the B.C. coast and Nishihata survived by working in the sugar beet farms of Alberta. Later, he completed his education in Montreal and attended graduate school in London.
Nishihata became an independent filmmaker and producer for CBC who taught film and media studies at Ryerson University. His 1974 film Watari Dot: A Bird of Passage told the story of Japanese-Canadian internment. He became the first editor of the Nikkei Voice magazine.
Before he died, Nishihata wrote a diary of his experiences growing up on Powell Street. His family has published Powell Street Diary: A Remembrance of Life Before Internment (Lulu $13.98). Jesse Nishihata died in 2006 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s Disease.

O is for O’Callaghan
Shelley O’Callaghan’s How Deep is the Lake: A Century at Chilliwack Lake (Caitlin $24.95) is a history of nearly one hundred years of summers at Chilliwack Lake at a summer cabin.
Similar to the structure of The Curve of Time, in which M. Wyile Blchanet telescoped her family's coastal cruising adventures into one summer, How Deep is the Lake features expeditions taken by O’Callaghan and six grandchildren as they investigate the headstone of an American scout with the 1858 International Boundary Commission.

P is for Protection
Since 2016 there’s been a literary controversy arising from ex-Torontonian Amber McMillan’s critical book about her brief stay with her partner on artay Protection Island, off of Nanaimo. Locals angered and offended by The Woods: A Year on Protection Island (Nightwood, 2016) include Nanaimo’s beloved ex-bookseller Thorowall who sent an open letter, outlining how it was riddled with errors, to CBC host Stephen Quinn after he’d recommended it.
The latest book from Protection Island is resident painter/biologist Alison Watt’s debut novel, Dazzle Patterns (Freehand $21.95), marking the centenary of the Halifax Explosion of 1917, also the subject for Hugh MacLennan’s debut novel in 1941, Barometer Rising. The Protection Island lit explosion continues.

Q is for Queen
It was Gordon Campbell’s regime that instructed ICBC to become more litigious when British Columbians try to get compensation as accident victims. Possibly it says something about his popularity, after a decade-long premiership that included the Winter Olympics, that the first critical book to examine his legacy isn’t B.C.-published. UNBC professors J.R. Lacharite and Tracy Summerville have gathered 568 pages of critical essays for The Campbell Revolution? Power, Politics and Policy in British Columbia (MUP $31.46) from McGill-Queen’s in Quebec.
Blue whales are the largest animals ever to have lived on earth (longer than the longest dinosaur). Only 21 skeletons are on public display worldwide including the 88 ft. long one at UBC’s Beatty Biodiversity Museum (above). Anita Miettunen’s Big Blue Forever gives us all the facts on the blue whale.

The boat and team members in Kevin Valley’s memoir Rowing the North-west Passage: Adventure, Fear, and Awe in a Rising Sea (Greystone $24.95).

W is for Wright

Anita Miettunen’s first children’s book, Big Blue Forever (Red Deer Press, $24.95) is inspired by the true story of how a blue whale skeleton, buried for over twenty years in PEI, was shipped cross-country and reassembled for permanent display at the Beatty Biodiversity Museum at UBC. This story presents facts about blue whales, their environment and the process that museums undertake to uncover, prepare, and reassemble skeletons for display and study.

BORN IN 1943 IN COLORADO, MULTI-FACETED AUTHOR AND EDITOR HIRIL WRIGHT died from a heart attack on August 1 at his home in Sointula. A memorial service was held on Denman Island. He lived for 25 years on the West Coast before moving to Japan where he lived with his second wife (and “muse”) Shiori Tsuchiya in Kanagawa Prefecture, then moving to Naha, Okinawa following an earthquake in 2011. For a full obit, visit ABCBookWorld.com

WHO’S WHO BRITISH COLUMBIA

R is for Rafe

BORN IN VANCOUVER ON DECEMBER 31, 1933, former talk show radio host, Social Credit cabinet minister and lawyer Rafe Mair died on October 9, 2017, at age 85, just before he was able to see a copy of his eleventh book, Politically Incorrect: How Canada Lost Its Way (D&M $22.95) with Conservative MP Michael Chong and Liberal MP Scott Simms. Eight current members of Canada’s parliament, from four different political parties, share non-partisan thoughts on the state of Canadian democracy, including Saanich/Gulf Islands’ Green MP Elizabeth May.

S is for Stewart

KENNEDY STEWART, NDP MP FOR THE RISING TIDE OF BURNABY SOUTH, has co-edited Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practicing Democracy in Canada’s Democracy (D&M $22.95) with Conservative MP Michael Chong and Liberal MP Scott Simms. Eight current members of Canada’s parliament, from four different political parties, share non-partisan thoughts on the state of Canadian democracy, including Saanich/Gulf Islands’ Green MP Elizabeth May.

T is for Thesen

THE THIRTEENTH BOOK BY THREE-TIME GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S AWARD nominee SHARON TESSEN is The Receiver (New Star $19). “The body is the receiver of all that is; poetic imagination the transmitter of the world,” she writes. Her collection is “A memoir of a poet’s and a dreamer’s imagination, about the transmission of language / energy (the poet will have had ‘some several causes’), contagion, ancestral / cellular memory, what is received through books, reading, talk, voices, rhythms of thought & experience. The education / mis-education of a poet ‘by ear’; transmission/ transcription/telephone/telegraph; ammoniation as method.”

U is for Uneven

EIGHT B.C. WRITERS were shortlisted for major literary awards this fall. Only one was published from B.C. That was Carleigh Baker’s Endings (Anvil), co-nominated with David Chariandy’s Brother (McS) for the $50,000 Rogers Writers Trust Fiction Prize. Bon of a Trickster (PRH) by Eden Robinson was shortlisted for the Giller Prize. Eleven of the twelve Giller longlisted titles were from Ontario. Nine of the twelve Governor General’s Awards (non-fiction), Sarah de Leeuw was nominated for Where It Hurts (NeWest); for poetry, Lorna Crozier was nominated for What the Soul Doesn’t Want (Freehand); for drama, Hiro Kanagawa was nominated for Indian Arm (Playwrights Canada); for illustrated children’s book, Julie Flett was nominated for When We Were Alone (HighWater) with text by David Alexander Robertson.

V is for Vallee

FULFILLING THE DREAM OF A LIFETIME, architect and adventurer Kevin Vallee crossed the treacherous North-west Passage in nothing more than a rowboat. Travelling with a team, Vallee faced life-threatening storms and unbelievable weather, while also encountering graceful belugas, hairy muskoxen and herds of caribou. All these experiences are captured in Rowing the Northwest Passage: Adventure, Fear, and Awe in a Rising Sea (Greystone $24.95). Due to climate change in the high Arctic, the Passage is now ice-free for a brief window in summer, which allowed Vallee to embark on his trip. Vallee’s previous adventures include scaling a volcano in Java and trekking across Antarctica.
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Circus Lit
THANKS FOR CONTINUING TO DO BC BookWorld, ABCBookWorld, BC-BookLook and now The Ormsby Review. And including me as #61 on The Literary Map of B.C.

I’ve now done seven books, four of them in the traditional manner, and mostly the experiences have been good. Lately I’ve taken my books into the grass roots world of the local farmer’s market. Each week it is like the circus has come to town and I’m the only author in the circus. Everything must be homemade and guess what, every book was handwritten in the Shuswap (to begin with) so I qualify.

People are surprised and often incredulous to meet a live author but it has turned out to be a fun way (albeit humiliating at times, too) to connect with readers.

Mostly customers come for organic beers and keles and some of them walk away with a book or two.

This past summer a woman from Alberta bought six copies of Clara and Me for her entire book club. That made my day.

Deanna Kowatski
Salmon Arm

Trip devisor
I APPRECIATE YOUR MAGAZINE BOTH paper and e-zine. What a gift for B.C. writers and readers. Having been an independent publisher since 1985, and not a red cent from anyone for publishing but my own pocket, it has been quite a trip, one I do not regret, although there has been no budget for advertising. Therefore, my heart truly appreciates reviews and acknowledge men like yours to get the word out.

Agnes Toews-Andrews
West Kootenays

In response to Louis Reil/Autumn:
Once John A. Macdonald sent out the troops and a militia made from the Dominion Land Surveyors, families back east had to mourn the loss of their loved ones: six killed and 49 wounded in an ambush led by Dumont at Fish Creek, eight more killed a few weeks later and eight again at Batoche the following month, before Durnam ran away and Reil was captured. The Cree, Assinboine and Metis also fought each other, yet the story told today conjures an organized “resistance” against a vio lent government. [excerpt]

S. B. Julian
Victoria

Luhombo responses
READING ABOUT PLACID KINDATA AND HIS EFFORTS IN LUHOMBERO REMINDED ME that it wasn’t that many years ago when those with epilepsy were invisible to Canada. I am looking forward to receiving BC Bookworld for my contribution, no longer waiting to get a copy until my next trip on B.C. Ferries.

Claudia Shaw
North Vancouver

THANKS FOR YOUR WONDERFUL APPEAL ABOUT helping an African village in the summer issue of BC BookWorld. I am pleased to contribute. Please don’t send me a gift subscription because I positively love picking up BC BookWorld on the ferry or at the bookstore!

Eleanor O’Donnell
Vancouver

I’M ENCOURAGING A CHAOS TOWARDS THE PROJECT in Luhombo. We are so blessed here in Canada and it’s good to share with others. As an avid reader, I enjoy picking up the latest copy of BC BookWorld at the lovely little library here in Valemount.

Jim and Terry Stewart
Valemount

We wish to acknowledge the assistance of these new Luhombo donors:
Angela Kasparrisaitis, Marilyn Brooks, Sharon Carriere, Louise Donnelly, Joan Givan, Heidi Greco, Michael Hetherington, Shelley Hrdlitschka, Thora Ilenga, Deanna Kowatski, Georgia Kirkman, Joy Kogawa, Pauline Le Bel, Kay McCracken, Anne Miles, Laura Millar, Margaret Mould, Judi Murakami, Renate Neffin, Eleanor O’Donnell, Daphne Osoba, Claudia Shaw, Howard Stewart, Teresa Stew art, Carol White, J.Willis, Deb Wills, Susan Yates. For an update on progress: www.helpluhombo.org —Ed.

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