GEORGE ORWELL
predicted Big Brother, alternative facts, and Donald Trump.

SEE PAGE 8

TWENTY EIGHTEEN
GEORGE ORWELL

Travis Lupick
The story of the first supervised injection site.
PAGE 15

Rachel Rose
151 local and global tidbits and recipes.
PAGE 28

Lucy Meggs
The Fraser River Salmon strikes of 1900.
PAGE 21

MUD GIRLS
A DIY solution to housing.
PAGE 20

VITUS BERING’S DOOMED VOYAGE 24 • PATRICK LANE’S RURAL NOIR 32
JOIN US
May 11th - 13th, 2018
Prestige Harbourfront Resort
Salmon Arm, BC

Presenters:
Michael Slade
Jack Whyte
Jacqueline Guest
Grant Lawrence
C. C. Humphreys
Sheri-D Wilson
Ian Weir
Howard White
James Murray
Patricia Donahue
Victor Anthony

Check website for updates

Whatever level of writer you may be, you’ll want to be part of this inspiring weekend on the shores of spectacular Shuswap Lake.

Expect to be encouraged, informed and thoroughly entertained.

Find out what these published authors and industry professionals can do for you.
Register at: www.wordonthelakewritersfestival.com

Word on the Lake
Writers’ Festival

THE NEW WEST FESTIVAL OF WORDS
APRIL 13-15TH
THE NEW WEST QUAY
A COLLABORATION OF
The Federation of BC Writers
and
Litfest New West

FEATURING:
ROBERTA RICH
GAIL ANDERSON-DARGATZ
JJ LEE
ROB TAYLOR
NEW WEST POET LAUREATE ALAN HILL

www.bcwriters.ca

WRITE ON THE SOUND
WRITERS’ CONFERENCE
EDMONDS WA

OCTOBER 5, 6 & 7, 2018

KEYNOTE: Cara Black
New York Times Best-Selling author of the Aimée Leduc Series

Over 30 sessions on the craft of fiction, nonfiction and poetry on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound
Pre-conference Workshops | Manuscript Critiques | Writing Contest
Book Signing Reception | Onsite Bookshop | After Hours Activities

WWW.WRITEONTHE SOUND.COM
Sicherman Claire
Through Every Country on the Planet: The Sacred Herb / The Devil’s Weed (Sandhill Book Marketing $34.95)

Tomson Highway
The Heroic Life of a Milltown Nurse (UBC Press $34.95)

Brandywine
The Year-Round Solar Greenhouse: Net-Zero Energy Greenhouse and Share Your Ideas Online (Rocky Mountain Books $22)

Robert Falls
The Candid Observations of a Carbon Pioneer (Ronsdale Press $21.95)

Marc Plinke
Carbon Play: A VERY DIFFERENT HOCKEY STORY (D&M $29.95)

Angela Crocker
How to Design and Build a Carbon Play: A VERY DIFFERENT HOCKEY STORY (Sandhill Book Marketing $34.95)

Dr. Jillian Roberts
On Our Street: Our First Talk about Poverty (Orca Books $19.95)

Shelley Adams
Whitewater Cooke: More Beautiful Food (Sandhill Book Marketing $34.95)

Robert Budd
Hello Humpback! (Harbour $9.95)

Rachel Rose
A Celebration of Indigenous Writers from BC and Beyond on the Subject of Food (Artel Press $25)

Sladen Peltier (far left) as young Saul, upon arriving at a residential school in Indian Horse.

Richard Wagamese’s Indian Horse becomes a film

According to statistics compiled by bookmaker from weekly stats obtained from 230 Canadian independent stores, the bestselling Canadian non-fiction title of 2017 was the late Richard Wagamese’s Embers: One Ojiibway’s Meditations (DM $18.95), the most popular book from a self-described “spiritual bad-ass.”

In the B.C. BookWorld authors finding lessons in both the mundane and sublime, drawing inspiration from working in the bush — sawing and cutting and stacking wood for winter as well as the smudging ceremony to bring him closer to the Creator.

“Life sometimes is hard,” he wrote. “There are challenges. There are difficulties. There is pain. As a young man I sought to avoid them and only ever caused myself more of the same. These days I choose to face life head on—and I have become a corn. I arc across the sky of my mind and the harder times are the friction that lets the worn and tired bits drop away. It’s a good way to travel; eventually I will wear away all resistance until all there is left of me is light. I can live towards that end.”

Meanwhile the feature film version of Indian Horse, based on Wagamese’s award-winning novel, is slated to open in theatres across Canada on April 13, according to Elevation Pictures. Directed by Stephen Campanelli, it has already received favourable attention at film festivals in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Sudbury. The producers are Saul Indian Horse who, along with Forrest Goodluck (The Revenant), portray Saul Indian Horse, during three stages of his life—including his budding potential as a gifted hockey player. Also featuring Michel Huisman and Michael Murphy, the production highlights newcomer Edna Manitowbake, herself a residential school survivor, as Saul’s indomitable grandmother.

In late 1950s Ontario, Saul is denied the freedom to speak his language or embrace his heritage. While witnessing abuse, he finds temporary salvation in playing hockey. He makes it from a Northern Ontario native league to the pros, but he succumbs to painful memories that haunt him. The script is by Vancouver playwright and actor Dennis Foon. One of the executive producers is Clint Eastwood. Indian Horse, the novel, won the Canada Reads People’s Choice award and was shortlisted for the International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award.

Richard Wagamese was born in Minaki, Ontario, on October 14, 1955 and grew up in fifteen foster homes. He and three sisters were once abandoned by adults on a binge drinking trip in Kenora and locked out of food. He was re-united with birth family members in his early twenties. As a self-described “second-generation survivor of the residential school system” that had adversely affected the lives of his parents and other family members, Wagamese partially overcame alcoholism and PTSD to attain national acclaim.

Also known as Richard Gilkinson, Wagamese had “a criminal history with more than 50 convictions dating back to the 1970s,” including numerous alcohol-related driving convictions, according to the Kamloops News. But he persevered and gained widespread acceptance, forming a 25-year friendship with former Vancouver Sun writer and host of CBC’s The Next Chapter, and earning several prestigious awards. With thirteen books under his belt, he was nominated for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize one week prior to his death in Kamloops on March 10, 2017.
“NOURISH THE SENSE OF WONDER.”
—KIRKUS REVIEWS

“Visually spectacular.”
—Canadian Children’s Book News

“A captivating and intimately photographed look at the lives of wild bears.”
—Publishers Weekly

“The story is really told by the big, bright pictures which glow with the rhythms and beauties of this remote habitat... Enthralling fare for budding naturalists.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“McAllister’s handsome photos, particularly those taken underwater, offer some unusual and almost otherworldly effects of light and color. An intriguing addition to the My Great Bear Rainforest series.”
—Booklist

Follow a pod of spy-hopping orcas as they explore the ecosystems of the Great Bear Sea while hunting for their next meal.

MY GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST
BOOKS BY IAN McALLISTER & NICHOLAS READ

www.greatbearbooks.com
Author of thirty books, the indefatigable Daniel Francis of North Vancouver received the Governor General’s History Award for Popular Media: The Pierre Berton Award in Rideau Hall, Ottawa from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada. Francis also worked for years as the chief editor for The Encyclopedia of British Columbia.

Hiro Kanagawa

Henrik Ibsen’s Little Eyolf, the action proceeds to unravel connections between a white family and indigenous families at the end of Burrard Inlet, past Deep Cove, at the remote end of the inlet known as Indian Arm.

Berradette McDonald has completed a “Triple Crown” for mountain literature with three major literary awards over a period of three weeks for her poem collection, Time: Poems New and Selected (Junction Books $22). a biography of a Polish climber known for his “bold and lightning-fast” ascents of unclimbed walls in the Himalayas.

Rebecca Wellman: a brunch of stories

VICTORIA WAS NAMED BRUNCH CAPITAL OF Canada by the Food Network, so maybe it’s not surprising that First, We Brunch: Recipes and Stories from Victoria’s Best-Loved Breakfast Joints (Touchwood $30) by food and lifestyle photographer Rebecca Wellman won three times—for Entertaining, Photography and Breakfast—in the Canada category for the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards.

At the Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature, Irene N. Watts and illustrator Kathryn Shoemaker won the Children’s/YA category for their graphic novel Seeking Refuge (Tradewind $15.95). Administered by the Koffler Centre of the Arts, four prizes of $10,000 each are presented annually for four categories—fiction, nonfiction, history, and children’s/young adult.

Born on the Banks of the Assiniboine River, Métis-mixed-blood poet and arts activist Joanne Arnott has received the Mayor’s Award for Literary Arts in Vancouver. Among her eight books and two chapbooks, arguably her major collection is Mother Time: Poems New and Selected (Ronsdale Press $15.95).

Born in Jamaica, Lorra Goodison of Halfmoon Bay is currently within her three-year term as the poet laureate of Jamaica. She is the author of eight books of poetry, two collections of short stories and an award-winning memoir, From Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her People (Emblem Editions $22).

Vancouver Island University writing teacher Bonnet L’Abbé was shortlisted for the bpNichol Chapbook Award for Anima Canadensis (Johns Book $12) in 2017. Also nominated from B.C. was Renee Szajdi Sallikar for After the Battle of Kowangaya, the bees (above ground $4).

When Farida Somjee was ten years old, in Dar es Salaam, she watched as a young boy, about eight years old, was begging on a streetcorner with his mother. She couldn’t understand why she was in the comfort of a car, enjoying an ice-cream treat, while the boy was reduced to begging. She went back to the streetcorner to find him, but she didn’t see him. That childhood encounter was the seed for her first novel, The Beggar’s Dance (Amazon $16.58), which realistically depicts the struggles of eleven-year-old Juma on the mean streets of an unnamed African coastal capital from 1977 to 1992.

Not overly-embellished with drama, it’s a memorable story suitable for young adults or adults—not unlike Oliver Twist. As judged by Gail Anderson-Dargatz, it was accorded the 2017 Fiction Award at the 16th Annual Whistler Writers Festival. The Whistler Independent Book Awards are touted as the only juried awards for self-publishing in Canada.

Mother Tongue Publishing of Salt Spring Island announced that Bill Stenson has won the 4th Great BC Novel Contest, as judged this year by Audrey Thomas, for For the Love of Strangers, his novel about a lost ‘n’ found child who wonders why there are no baby pictures of her in the family album. This contest originated in 2008.

Everything Was Good-bye, a debut novel by Gurinder Bassan, won the first Great BC Novel Contest in 2008 and went on to win the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. The second winner, Lucky, a debut novel by Kathryn Para, was a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. The winner of the third contest was disqualified because of a dispute over appropriate authorship attribution.

Cree/Métis illustrator Julie Flett has won at least one book prize for nearly every book she has published. This time she’s a co-recipient of a Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature for When We Were Alone (HighWater/Portage & Main $18.95) with text by David Alexander Robertson. For further info on Flett’s unparalleled record of winning literary awards—and extensive info on more than 11,700 B.C. authors—visit our free reference site: abcbookworld.com

Alessandra Naccarato

After appearing on the cover of BC BookWorld’s autumn 2017 issue, Giller-nominee Eden Robinson won the $50,000 Writers’ Trust Fellowship for a body of work. David Stouck’s influential review of her nominated novel, Son of a Trickster, was published in The Ormsby Review.

After being featured in the winter issue of BC BookWorld, David Chariandy proceeded to win the $50,000 Rogers Writers Trust Fiction Prize for Brother (MacS $23); one of the runners-up was Carleigh Baker for her collection of short stories, Bad Endings (Anvil $18), which had previously received the City of Vancouver Book Award.

Hiro Kanagawa

New books from
Douglas & McIntyre

AWESOME ANCIENT GRAINS AND SEEDS
A Garden-to-Kitchen Guide
Includes 50 Vegetarian Recipes
A backyard-to-table guide to growing and enjoying ancient grains and seeds, featuring fifty vegetarian recipes from bestselling authors DAN JASON and MICHELE GENEST. GARDENING | COOKING | $24.95
PAPERBACK • 8 1/16” x 6 1/8” • 208 PAGES • 100 COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS • AVAILABLE • 978-1-77052-177-9

EXCESSIVE FORCE
Toronto’s Fight to Reform City Policing
A book about the present and future of policing in Canada by ALOK MUHERJEE, the civilian overseer who served ten years as chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, written with Toronto Star columnist TIM HARPER.
CRIME | FACTS | CURRENT AFFAIRS | $18.95
PAPERBACK • 8” x 5” • 296 PAGES • MARCH 978-1-77052-183-0

EXTRAORDINARY ORNAMENTAL EDIBLES
100 Perennials, Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Canadian Gardens
A inspiring and easy-to-reference A-to-Z guide to growing perennial edibles across Canada, featuring 225 colour photos, from certified arborist MIKE LASCHELLE. GARDENING | $24.95
PAPERBACK • 8” x 8 7/8” • 288 PAGES • 225 COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS • AVAILABLE • 978-1-77052-379-3

ALL TOGETHER HEALTHY
A Canadian Wellness Revolution
Award-winning author and journalist ANDREW MACLEOD combines meticulous research, lively interviews and personal stories in this examination of the pressing issue of inequalities in health and public policy in Canada with a Focus on BC. CURRENT AFFAIRS | $22.95
PAPERBACK • 6” x 9” • 240 PAGES • MAY 978-1-77052-188-5

THE UNCEASING STORM
Memories of the Chinese Cultural Revolution
A poignant memoir of life in mainland China during the Chinese Cultural Revolution by KATHERINE LUO, with a foreword by MADELEINE THIEN. MEMOIR | $22.95
PAPERBACK • 6” x 9” • 260 PAGES • 8-PAGE PHOTO INSERT MARCH 978-1-77052-188-5

LET’S GET FRANK
Canada’s Mad Man of Advertising
The life of Canadian advertising legend FRANK PALMER, in all his ferociously competitive, flawed and flamboyant glory, written by ROBIN BRUNET. BUSINESS | BIOGRAPHY | $29.95
HARDCOVER • 6” x 9” • 324 PAGES • 8-PAGE PHOTO INSERT • AVAILABLE • 978-1-77052-261-6

BABY’S FIRST HASHTAG
SCOTT FESCHUK, co-author of How Not to Completely Screw Up a New Parent, and his partner SUSAN ALLAN write a substantive board book for millennial parents and disillusioned babies. HUMOUR | $12.95
BOARD BOOK • 6” x 6” • 28 PAGES • 28 COLOUR PHOTOS APRIL • 978-1-77052-206-3

INDIAN FISHING
Early Methods on the Northwest Coast, 40th Anniversary Edition
A comprehensive look into the methods and importance of fishing for the First Nations of the Northwest Coast, originally published in 1977 by award-winning author HILARY STEWART.
FIRST NATIONS | HISTORY | $28.95
PAPERBACK • 10” x 8” • 182 PAGES • 55 BW PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS • AVAILABLE • 978-1-77052-185-4

INDIAN HORSE
Here is a special edition of RICHARD WAGAMESE’s award-winning novel, published in celebration of the release of the motion picture based on the story.
FICTION | $31.95
PAPERBACK, FRENCH FLAPS • 5” x 4” • 222 PAGES • MARCH 978-1-77052-260-8

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:
SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER,
GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT
OUR BOOKS, AUTHORS AND EVENTS,
AND ACCESS BOOK GIVEAWAYS
AND SPECIAL PROMOTIONS
www.douglas-mcintyre.com
www.facebook.com/DMPublishers
twitter: @DMPublishers
www.goodreads.com/DouglasMcIntyre

Available in fine bookstores across the British Columbia

FOR TRADE: All Douglas & McIntyre titles are available from University of Toronto Press Distribution
I

N June, LORNA CROZIER will become the 25th recipient of the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for an outstanding literary career in British Columbia.

Lorna Crozier has already received most of the major literary prizes for which she has been eligible. These include a Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize (in 2010) for Small Beneath the Sky: A Prairie Memoir (Greystone) as well as the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (in 2000) for What the Living Won’t Let Go (M&S). She later received the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence (1989), the Pat Lowther Awards, a Governor General’s Award and a Canadian Authors Association Award.

Born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 1948, Lorna Crozier overcame family poverty and family alcoholism—as described in her collection of narratives and prose poems, Small Beneath the Sky: A Prairie Memoir—to be inducted into the Royal Society of Canada (an organization that promotes learning and research in the arts, the humanities and the sciences) in 2009.

For more than four decades Crozier has made herself known across the country and the world. She has moved from Saskatchewan to British Columbia, where they now both teach. After venturing into children’s books with Mixed Poetry and Photography and the recently produced unlikely bestseller Lots of Kisses (Orca, 2014), Crozier published No Longer Two People (Turnstone, 1979) and Humans and Other Beasts (Turnstone, 1980).

A former high school English teacher, Crozier attended the University of Saskatchewan (BA, 1969) and University of Alberta (MA, 1980). In 1991, she and Patrick Lane moved to Victoria so she could accept a teaching post at the University of Victoria’s creative writing department, where they now both teach. Crozier has credited Sinclair Ross’ novel As For Me And My House (1941) as the major stimulant for her courage to pursue her own writing, later acknowledging that influence with the publication of A Searing Grace: The Collected Poems of Mrs. Bentley (M&S, 1996), set in Sinclair Ross’ fictional town of Horizon in the 1930s.

After venturing into children’s books with Lots of Kisses (Orca, 2014), Crozier recently produced an unlikely bestseller that mixed poetry and photography to heighten environmental awareness, The Wild in You: Voices from the Forest and the Sea (Greystone), with photography by Ian McAllister.

The public is invited to attend the presentation ceremony for Lorna Crozier and hear her speak on June 28, 7 p.m., at Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia.

Gary Geddes wins

Poet, anthologist, translator and non-fiction author of Medicine Unbundled: A Journey through the Minefields of Indigenous Health Care (Heritage House, 2017), Gary Geddes (at right) has won the 2018 Freedom to Read Award presented annually by The Writers Union of Canada in recognition of work that is passionately supportive of free expression. Past recipients from B.C. include Deborah Campbell, Mohamed Fahmy and Janine Fuller.

Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize to Ignaces

The Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Book on British Columbia was established in memory of Basil Stuart-Stubbs, a bibliophile, scholar and librarian who passed away in 2012.

The sixth “Bazzie” will be presented to the husband-and-wife team of Marianne Ignace and Ronald E. Ignace for their comprehensive, 588-page study, Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws: Ye?l? re Stseqyeskuc (McGill-Queen’s University Press).

Runners-up this year are Ben Bradley for British Columbia by the Road: Car Culture and the Making of a Modern Landscape (UBC Press) and the editorial team of Richard J. Hebdia, Sheila Greer, and Alexander Mackie for Kwядай Dàn Ts’inch: Teachings from Long Ago Person Found (Royal BC Museum Press).

The presentation ceremony for the winning title will be held on Thursday, May 31st at 4:00 pm in the Dodson Room of the Barber Learning Centre at UBC in Vancouver.
propaganda is repetition,” and Hitler, with lies of his own, discovering the seductive power of being freed from normal constraints of truth telling. "Orwell knew very well where the malignant distortion of language can lead," writes Stephen Wadhams, gatherer of The Orwell Tapes. “He’d seen it for himself in the Spanish Civil War and even done it himself as a BBC producer in wartime London, matching German propaganda with lies of his own, discovering the seductive power of being freed from normal constraints of truth telling.”

Joseph Goebbels, Hitler’s propaganda minister, had said “The secret of propaganda is repetition,” and Hitler, in his 1925 book, Mein Kampf, had already identified the propaganda technique of the Big Lie so he could convince any one that no one would believe that someone could have the impudence to distort the truth so insanely. It was George Orwell who revealed to a global audience how easy it is to manipulate people, how fragile our individuality can be, and how complete control of media and other technology can give rise to totalitarianism. Now Stephen Wadhams’ interviews for The Orwell Tapes provide a unique prism for understanding the 20th century’s most prophetic voice of caution.

ALTERNATIVE FACTS

Wadhams’ 50 hours of interviews gathered in 1983 resulted in two CBC Radio documentaries, George Orwell, A Radio Biography (1984) and The Orwell Tapes (1986). These, in turn, have generated the first release from a new B.C. imprint that is spearheaded by Scott Steedman, a respected editor, and Dimiter Savoff, who, as publisher of Simply Read Books, has garnered a controversial reputation for his treatment of authors. No mention is made of the fact that The Orwell Tapes is actually a reprint of Remembering Orwell (Penquin, 1984), conceived and compiled by Stephen Wadhams, and published 34 years before.

Wadhams’ new edition of Remembering Orwell contains the original introduction by Orwell’s friend, George Woodcock, the Vancouver anarchist who wrote an award-winning Orwell study, The Crystal Spirit (Little, Brown, 1966) and Orwell’s Messages: 1984 and the Present (Harbour, 1984). There is also an updated preface by Wadhams and a new foreword by scholar Peter Davison.

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

THE MALLEABLE TRUTH

George Orwell’s 1984—or Nineteen Eighty-Four (original title)—rocketed to the top of the Amazon bestseller list in the U.S. last year immediately after Republican spin doctor Kellyanne Conway was asked on Meet the Press to explain why President Trump’s beleaguered press secretary, Sean Spicer, deliberately lied by saying Trump had attracted the “largest audience ever to witness an inauguration.” The White House press secretary, explained Ms. Conway, “gave alternative facts.”

Now a B.C. book, The Orwell Tapes (Locarno Press $18.50), affords fascinating glimpses into the character of the 20th century’s most prophetic novelist, George Orwell, the man who predicted such dangerous nonsense.

Stephen Wadhams’ The Orwell Tapes is a collection of memories from those who crossed paths with the complex character who first described Big Brother, thoughtcrime, Newspeak and doublethink.

In 1983, CBC’s Stephen Wadhams

George Woodcock (far left), novelist Mulk-Raj Anand, George Orwell, poet William Empson, philosopher Herbert Read, poet Edmund Blunden, 1942.

Eric Arthur Blair (pen name George Orwell) was born in 1903 in Motihari, then part of Bengal, but now called Bihar, which is part of India. At the time, opium was legal and a big money producer for the British Empire. Orwell’s father, Richard Blair, was an opium agent in the Indian Civil Service. Orwell’s mother was the much-younger Ida Blair, the half-French daughter of a tea merchant from Burma.

With parents from the lower rungs of the British Raj elite, Orwell joked he was, “born into what you might describe as the lower-upper-middle class.”

Eric Blair’s family and a rigidly conformist society conspired to shape him in a particular way. “His parents certainly wanted him to conform,” writes Wadhams. “They expected of him. But the five years he spent in Burma deeply changed the young man.

“The inequities and oppression he saw there had a lasting effect on him,” says Wadhams. “In his writing he describes these years as traumatic. The ‘dirty end of Empire’ left him with an enormous weight of guilt, which he sought to expunge only by understanding and identifying with the oppressed classes of his own country.”

Even though Orwell took up the underclasses as his adult cause, he retained many of the very English ways that he learned at British boarding schools.

On holidays back at home, Orwell developed a lifelong love of the English countryside and fishing, rather conservative passions one doesn’t associate with a man who became attracted to Jacintha Buddicom, a girl two years’ older than him.

Buddicom revealed that books were a common denominator between the two and that Blair dreamed of being a famous writer. “I was never without a book in my hand and nor was he,” Buddicom said. “He was always going to write, and he was always going to be a Famous Writer.”

“Was that his trademark, Eric the Famous Writer.”

from open revolt; the young Blair was not a radical.”

That may explain why Orwell would study hard to eventually finish his education at Eton, one of the top boarding schools in Britain, and upon graduation spend five years in the colonial police force in Burma. It was expected of him. But the five years he spent in Burma deeply changed the young man.

Time Magazine, November 28, 1983
Buddicom inspired the young Orwell to write a poem about her independent spirit. In 1927, he chose not to continue onto Oxford or Cambridge. "Awake! Young Men of England," a poem written at the age of 19, was a King's Scholar at Eton. A fellow Etonian recalls that Eric Blair loved arguing: "Endless arguments about all sorts of things, in which to be scored came the great leaders. He was one of those boys who thought for himself, and at an age when a good many schoolboys haven't got the spirit to do so, his ideas were quite mature." He was unusual, saying "He was looked upon here as a little bit eccentric," but his "writing style," writes Wadhams. So, it seemed a sort of rational basis never die. Therefore it seemed a perfect fit for Orwell. He asked for. He asked in fact that it be left wild rose be left untended on his grave. A funeral service was held despite Orwell being a lapsed Anglican.

Orwell specifically requested a wild rose be left untended on his grave. Among those interviewed by Wadhams was the Reverend Gordon Dunstan who had led the burial service. "The grave here has just an old English rose on it," Dunstan tells Wadhams, "He asked for. He asked in fact that it be left untended, you know how roses grow, and they become strangely and a nuisance." So, the English rose was trimmed and Orwell's last request was not granted. He did get the epitaph he wanted.


A 5,000-WORD VERSION OF THIS REVIEW IS AVAILABLE via our affiliate, The Ormsby Review. Also, for an alternate summary of the contents of The Orwell Tapes, visit the OrwellSocietyBlog

Beverly Crum is an assistant editor of BC BookWorld.

The Jura farm house George Orwell rented to write Nineteen Eighty-Four, above right: First edition of Remembering Orwell (Penguin, 1994).

The Jura farmhouse George Orwell rented to write Nineteen Eighty-Four, first draft of Nineteen Eighty-Four, he found himself having to explain what he meant. "The book was, to his dismay," writes Wadhams, "instantly adopted by the right wing in the United States, to be used as ammunition against the Soviet Union and as anti-socialist propaganda generally. But Orwell was against totalitarianism of the left or the right. For him, Big Brother might be in the Pentagon or the Kremlin, thought control whether the technique was torture or the television set, and during the Cold War his fears about the degradation and distortion of language would be borne out on both sides of the Iron Curtain, whether the subject was the ‘pacification’ of Vietnam villages or the ‘liquidation’ of Soviet dissidents."

In 1948, when Orwell finished the second draft of Nineteen Eighty-Four and sent it to his publisher on December 4, he was seriously ill. The next month he moved to a sanatorium in southern England. Nineteen Eighty-Four was published on June 8, 1949 and in July was the American Book of the Month. Orwell moved to his final "home," the University College Hospital in London on September 3. The next month, he convalesced in his room. Stephen Spender, a longtime friend of Orwell’s, had once described him as a "dying man for good reasons although it was to affect her for the rest of her life."

I thought Orwell was very much in love with Sonia and had been for some time. She was fond of him, and she never attempted to make him happy. She also knew that he was going to die. Therefore it seemed a rational proposition. But decisions arrived at on that basis were of radical basis never turn out how you think they will, and when he left Barcelona, he was a happy. She blamed herself and thought she had done the wrong thing, and so took over the cause of George Orwell for the rest of his life, and she never really recovered from that."

You see, I think Sonia always wanted to have a genius in her life. She had a romantic conception of geniuses, Orwell, to some extent, fitted her idea of the solitary genius who needed backing. She was always in search of her genius."

Orwell died in the evening of January 21, 1950, alone in his hospital room. Five days later he was buried in the churchyard of All Saints, Sutton Courtenay, the village where Orwell, in his will, requested in his will. A funeral service was held despite Orwell being a lapsed Anglican.

Orwell had specifically requested a wild rose be left untended on his grave. Among those interviewed by Wadhams was the Reverend Gordon Dunstan who had led the burial service. "The grave here has just an old English rose on it," Dunstan tells Wadhams, "He asked for. He asked in fact that it be left untended, you know how roses grow, and they become strangely and a nuisance." So, the English rose was trimmed and Orwell's last request was not granted. He did get the epitaph he wanted.


A 5,000-WORD VERSION OF THIS REVIEW IS AVAILABLE via our affiliate, The Ormsby Review. Also, for an alternate summary of the contents of The Orwell Tapes, visit the OrwellSocietyBlog

Beverly Crum is an assistant editor of BC BookWorld.

The Jura farmhouse George Orwell rented to write Nineteen Eighty-Four, above right: First edition of Remembering Orwell (Penguin, 1994).
Frozen in Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition by Owen Beattie & John Geiger, foreword by Wade Davis, introduction by Margaret Atwood (Greystone Books $22.95)

BY WALTER O. VOLOVSEK

T

T

He revised edition of Frozen in Time is a considerable improvement and an expansion of the original, published twenty years ago. It is given a fresh polish by a fascinating and witty introduction from Margaret Atwood, in which she presents the different incarnations of Sir John Franklin with the passage of time. A new colour insert focuses on the recent discovery of both shipwrecks—located with modern technology at the time-test of arctic survival by what were deemed to be inferior people. The unravelling of the Franklin mystery brings up the relevant question of what we have learned about toxin exposure through our food supply in the intervening 170 years. The answer seems to be, very little. Various formulations of plastics are the current chemical cocktail that has invaded the bloodstream of many Canadians, and most likely affected sperm production by males in technologically advanced societies.

T.S. Eliot was right. The world may end, not with a bang, but a whimper after all. In all its dimensions, this new edition of Frozen in Time is a mesmerizing and thought-provoking book, especially as we are on the cusp of new revelations from the shipwrecks—located with modern technology where the collective memory of the Inuit had placed them. It also seems a good time to remember the brave new world, when we are starting to come to terms with the limits of our current technological and biological possibilities. 9781771641739

Walter O. Volovsek has written a biography of Castlegar founder Edward Mahon, The Green Necklace: The Vision of Edward Mahon (October, 2012) and a book on his own trail-building efforts, Trails in Time: Reflections (October, 2012). A longer version of his response to Frozen in Time was first published by The Ormsby Review.

We now know the fate of the Franklin Expedition of 1845-48, recorded in an updated Frozen in Time.

Franklin mystery solved

We now know the fate of the doomed Franklin Expedition of 1845-48.

The HMS Erebus was found in 2014 just off O'Keefe Island, a hundred kilometres due west of Starvation Cove, where the last survivors stretched out their misery. Two years later the HMS Terror was located in the aptly-named, shallow waters of Terror Bay, where Inuit had noted its protruding mast top.

Owen Beattie and John Geiger’s classic account of archaeology and forensic anthropology in Frozen in Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition has consequently been updated for a fourth edition.

There are some B.C. connections: Men from John Franklin’s previous expeditions to the arctic, and also from expeditions sent in search of him, visited the Royal Navy’s Pacific base at Esquimalt, first used in 1848. Some of these men went on to settle in British Columbia. Lead author Beattie, born in Victoria in 1949, received his Ph.D. from Simon Fraser University and taught at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alberta from 1980 until 2007. Franklin’s widow, Lady Jane Franklin, who visited B.C. in 1861 and 1870, is commemorated in Lady Franklin Rock, located in the Fraser River just above Yale.

We now know the fate of the doomed Franklin Expedition of 1845-48.

The HMS Erebus was found in 2014 just off O’Keefe Island, a hundred kilometres due west of Starvation Cove, where the last survivors stretched out their misery. Two years later the HMS Terror was located in the aptly-named, shallow waters of Terror Bay, where Inuit had noted its protruding mast top.

Owen Beattie and John Geiger’s classic account of archaeology and forensic anthropology in Frozen in Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition has consequently been updated for a fourth edition.

There are some B.C. connections: Men from John Franklin’s previous expeditions to the arctic, and also from expeditions sent in search of him, visited the Royal Navy’s Pacific base at Esquimalt, first used in 1848. Some of these men went on to settle in British Columbia. Lead author Beattie, born in Victoria in 1949, received his Ph.D. from Simon Fraser University and taught at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alberta from 1980 until 2007. Franklin’s widow, Lady Jane Franklin, who visited B.C. in 1861 and 1870, is commemorated in Lady Franklin Rock, located in the Fraser River just above Yale.

We now know the fate of the doomed Franklin Expedition of 1845-48.

The HMS Erebus was found in 2014 just off O’Keefe Island, a hundred kilometres due west of Starvation Cove, where the last survivors stretched out their misery. Two years later the HMS Terror was located in the aptly-named, shallow waters of Terror Bay, where Inuit had noted its protruding mast top.

Owen Beattie and John Geiger’s classic account of archaeology and forensic anthropology in Frozen in Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition has consequently been updated for a fourth edition.

There are some B.C. connections: Men from John Franklin’s previous expeditions to the arctic, and also from expeditions sent in search of him, visited the Royal Navy’s Pacific base at Esquimalt, first used in 1848. Some of these men went on to settle in British Columbia. Lead author Beattie, born in Victoria in 1949, received his Ph.D. from Simon Fraser University and taught at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alberta from 1980 until 2007. Franklin’s widow, Lady Jane Franklin, who visited B.C. in 1861 and 1870, is commemorated in Lady Franklin Rock, located in the Fraser River just above Y
THE ORMSBY REVIEW

A rebirth for serious book reviews

THE ORMSBY REVIEW wishes to thank these contributors for their 250 in-depth reviews and essays, as well as one book, published during the venture’s pilot project phase, Sept. 2016 – Feb. 2018.


Thanks, also, to Yosef Wosk and SFU’s Graduate Liberal Studies Program directors Stephen Duguid and Sasha Colby who have supported the creation of this service. Thus far The Ormsby Review has had zero public funding.

Richard Mackie (reviews editor)
Alan Twigg (website manager)

GOOGLE ORMSBY REVIEW

The Ormsby Review

Serious writing about B.C. culture.

“Only connect.” — E.M. Forster
BY JOAN GIVNER

THE SUBJECT OF LISA ANNE SMITH’S EMILY PATTERSON: THE HEROIC LIFE OF A MILLTOWN NURSE was born in 1836 in Bath, Lincoln County, Maine. At the age of ten she refused to leave the room as a midwife delivered her mother’s baby; instead she assisted at the birth, curting the umbilical cord. The experience left her with a life-long interest in medicine and a sure sense of her vocation. She absorbed all the medical knowledge she could find and planned to attend the Geneva Medical College in New York to train as a nurse.

While marriage curtailed her plans for professional training, as it has done for many women, it did not end her career as a nurse. Wherever she lived, she adapted her skills and expanded her expertise. When she accompanied her husband, Captain John Patterson, on his ship to China, she cured scurvy, staunched injuries, and even used chloroform to anesthetize a wound. When her husband abandoned his career at sea for employment in the lumber industry, the couple moved from Butteville to Moodville, where Emily was often the only person available in the area to provide the services of midwife, nurse, and doctor. The dining room table in the Patterson home was made to certain specifications in order to serve—protected by oil-treated canvas—as an impromptu operating table. Her reputation grew and even when she was the healer of choice. One person she was not able to help was Gassy Jack who believed a shot of whisky would do the job as well as any dose of medicine.

A feat for which she became famous was her legendary journey by canoe through stormy seas to answer a plea from the keeper of the Port Atkinson lighthouse to help his sick wife. On the hundredth anniversary of her death, a ballad, “The Heroine of Moodville” was published. Inspired by such ballads as “The Wreck of the Hesperus” (but with a happier outcome) it ran to twenty-seven rhyming tercets and was published in the Vancouver General Nurses Annual.

Before she died, Emily asked her daughter to record her life for future generations. Alice honored that request, working with Vancouver’s city archivist, Major James Skitt Matthews to amassed an impressive collection of material from local papers and interviews. That archive is the basis for the present book. Because there were few direct words from Emily—one of the letters and diaries that generally animate a biographical subject—Lisa Anne Smith decided to use “a smattering of creative licence.” She combines the historical accuracy of a “life and times” biography with the narrative technique of a novel, inserting imagined conversations and dramatic scenes. The historical backdrop encompasses the notable events of Emily’s time. These include a description of San Francisco in the aftermath of the gold rush, where the family arrived after a three-week journey on the Panama railway. Since two of her married daughters later settled in San Francisco, the 1906 earthquake and fire affected her personally and she raised funds for those less fortunate than her daughters.

At the end of their lives, when the Pattersons moved from Moodyville to downtown Vancouver, the anti-Asian riot of 1907, fomented by the Asiatic Exclusion League, happened literally on their doorstep, with rioters breaking neighbourhood windows.

Smith’s passionate admiration for her subject gives the book a somewhat eulogistic tone with Emily depicted as the heroine of one incident after another. Fortunately, the author’s inclusion of robust dialogue rescues the book from hagiography, as when Emily tells an unruly patient to hurt in a tavern brawl, “You dare move and I’ll hit you over the head with a club.”

Some readers might find the inclusion of text from archival sources to be jarring or clumsy by current standards. People “reside” rather than live, babies are “welcomed into the world.” John Patterson before his marriage transported “Negro slaves” to New Orleans, and later “seemed to bear no dis- gruntlement to working under the command of a younger sibling.” Nevertheless, Smith has shaped a vast amount of material, contextualized it with diligent research and produced an important addition to the annals of nursing.

978-1553805052

Joan Givner is a biographer and novelist based in Victoria.
OUT WITH THE COLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Sonny Assu
A Selective History
Sonny Assu, with Candice Hopkins, Marianne Nicolson, Richard Van Camp, and Ellyn Walker
“Framed by contributions from some of our brightest Indigenous intellectuals, Sonny Assu’s canvas is more than an examination of how Indigenous Peoples respond to the Canadian experience. His witty and gentle hand offers Canada a mirror to consider its own scarred identity.” — Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas
Heritage House | $34.95 pb

Explore the Wild Coast with Sam and Crystal
Gloria Sveively, illustrated by Karen Gilmore
Curious sibs Sam and Crystal learn about the marine environment in this imaginative story of travel and discovery. Available with the companion volume Explore the Rocky Shore.
Heritage House | $22.05 hc

A Matter of Confidence
The Insider Story of the Political Battle for BC
Rob Shaw and Richard Zussman
The 2017 provincial election was one for the history books, and reporters Shaw and Zussman capture it all in this revealing recap of an amazing period in BC politics.
Heritage House | $20.95 pb | $15.95 ebook

Children of the Kootenays
Memories of Mining Towns
Shirley Stainton
Scenes of West Kootenay communities in the 1930s and ’40s come to life in this charming memoir that features over a hundred stunning photographs.
Heritage House | $21.05 pb | $15.95 ebook

Birds of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest
A Complete Guide, Revised Edition
Richard Cannings, Tom Aversa, Hal Opperman
Expand your horizons with this critically acclaimed guide for serious birders. Newly revised, with 900 full-colour images.
Heritage House | $20.05 pb

Andrew Nugara
Whether you are looking for an easy introductory day on flat terrain amid beautiful surroundings or getting to the summit of one of the Rockies innumerable soaring mountains, you will find it in this bestselling guidebook.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $30.00 pb

As a Dog Thinketh
Daily Words of Wisdom for Dog People
Monique Anstee
Featured on CBC’s North by Northwest, confused by your canine? Monique Anstee, top dog trainer and owner of the Naughty Dogge, provides daily reflections, guidance, and sound advice to improve your relationship with your pooch.
TouchWood Editions | $22.00 pb | $8.89 epub

Against the Current
The Remarkable Life of Agnes Deans Cameron
Cathy Converse
The first book to celebrate the remarkable life of one of BC’s 150 most significant individuals, Agnes Deans Cameron (b. 1863). She was BC’s first female principal, the first European woman to travel the Mackenzie River to the Beaufort Sea in one season, and the first “Lady Centurion” in the west.
TouchWood Editions | $30.00 pb | $17.99 epub

Backcountry Avalanche Safety
Tony Daffern
Essential reading for all outdoor enthusiasts who venture into mountainous terrain where avalanches are common.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $25.00 pb | $11.99 ebook

Snowshoeing in the Canadian Rockies — 2nd edition
Andrew Nugara
The Canadian Rockies in winter are still nothing short of spectacular, and snowshoe provide an easy, fun and exciting way to see some of the best winter scenery Canada has to offer.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $35.00 pb

A Beginner’s Guide to Snowshoeing
in the Canadian Rockies — 2nd Edition
Andrew Nugara
Whether you are looking for an easy introductory day on flat terrain amid beautiful surroundings or getting to the summit of one of the Rockies innumerable soaring mountains, you will find it in this bestselling guidebook.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $30.00 pb

Snowshoeing in the Southwestern British Columbia
Aileen Stalker, Tony Keen
With this new 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 | $30.00 pb | $15.99 ebook

A Matter of Confidence
The Insider Story of the Political Battle for BC
Rob Shaw and Richard Zussman
The 2017 provincial election was one for the history books, and reporters Shaw and Zussman capture it all in this revealing recap of an amazing period in BC politics.
Heritage House | $20.95 pb | $15.95 ebook

Children of the Kootenays
Memories of Mining Towns
Shirley Stainton
Scenes of West Kootenay communities in the 1930s and ’40s come to life in this charming memoir that features over a hundred stunning photographs.
Heritage House | $21.05 pb | $15.95 ebook

Birds of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest
A Complete Guide, Revised Edition
Richard Cannings, Tom Aversa, Hal Opperman
Expand your horizons with this critically acclaimed guide for serious birders. Newly revised, with 900 full-colour images.
Heritage House | $20.05 pb

Andrew Nugara
Whether you are looking for an easy introductory day on flat terrain amid beautiful surroundings or getting to the summit of one of the Rockies innumerable soaring mountains, you will find it in this bestselling guidebook.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $30.00 pb

As a Dog Thinketh
Daily Words of Wisdom for Dog People
Monique Anstee
Featured on CBC’s North by Northwest, confused by your canine? Monique Anstee, top dog trainer and owner of the Naughty Dogge, provides daily reflections, guidance, and sound advice to improve your relationship with your pooch.
TouchWood Editions | $22.00 pb | $8.89 epub

Against the Current
The Remarkable Life of Agnes Deans Cameron
Cathy Converse
The first book to celebrate the remarkable life of one of BC’s 150 most significant individuals, Agnes Deans Cameron (b. 1863). She was BC’s first female principal, the first European woman to travel the Mackenzie River to the Beaufort Sea in one season, and the first “Lady Centurion” in the west.
TouchWood Editions | $30.00 pb | $17.99 epub

Backcountry Avalanche Safety
Tony Daffern
Essential reading for all outdoor enthusiasts who venture into mountainous terrain where avalanches are common.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $25.00 pb | $11.99 ebook

Snowshoeing in the Southwestern British Columbia
Aileen Stalker, Tony Keen
With this new 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 | $30.00 pb | $15.99 ebook

Andrew Nugara
Whether you are looking for an easy introductory day on flat terrain amid beautiful surroundings or getting to the summit of one of the Rockies innumerable soaring mountains, you will find it in this bestselling guidebook.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | $30.00 pb

As a Dog Thinketh
Daily Words of Wisdom for Dog People
Monique Anstee
Featured on CBC’s North by Northwest, confused by your canine? Monique Anstee, top dog trainer and owner of the Naughty Dogge, provides daily reflections, guidance, and sound advice to improve your relationship with your pooch.
TouchWood Editions | $22.00 pb | $8.89 epub

Against the Current
The Remarkable Life of Agnes Deans Cameron
Cathy Converse
The first book to celebrate the remarkable life of one of BC’s 150 most significant individuals, Agnes Deans Cameron (b. 1863). She was BC’s first female principal, the first European woman to travel the Mackenzie River to the Beaufort Sea in one season, and the first “Lady Centurion” in the west.
TouchWood Editions | $30.00 pb | $17.99 epub
Gracie
JOAN MACLEOD
introduction by Marita Dachsel
Gracie is a dramatic monologue telling the story of a girl raised in a fundamentalist community that transports child brides between polygamous communities in both Canada and the United States.
978-1-77201-181-4  •  $16.95  •  80 pages  •  Drama
March 2018

King Arthur’s Night and Peter Panties
A Collaboration Across Perceptions of Cognitive Difference
MARCUS YOUSSEF & NIALL MCNEIL
introduction by Al Etmanski
Among the first by a writer with Down syndrome, these two plays demonstrate an ability to riff and shift perspective with disarming, hilarious, and occasionally heart-stopping results. Based on the iconic stories of King Arthur and Peter Pan, they are modern-day mash-ups that meld the fictional, the meta-fictional, and the real in ways that are counter-intuitive and absurd.
978-1-77201-203-3  •  $16.95  •  96 pages  •  Drama
May 2018

The Cure for Death by Lightning
A play adapted by Daryl Cloran from the novel by Gail Anderson-Dargatz
DARYL CLORAN
Set in Turtle Valley (near Kamloops, British Columbia) in the shadow of the Second World War, The Cure for Death by Lightning tells a dark, challenging story that includes sexual abuse, grief, and the day-to-day struggle for survival.
978-1-77201-205-7  •  $16.95  •  96 pages  •  Drama
April 2018

The Green Chamber
MARTINE DESJARDINS
translated by Fred A. Reed & David Homel
Set between 1913 and 1963 in one of Montreal’s well-known, upper-middle-class, suburban neighbourhoods, Martine Desjardin’s The Green Chamber is a riveting, fast-paced, highly atmospheric novel that chronicles the decline of a wealthy French-Canadian family over the course of three generations.
978-1-77201-196-8  •  $18.95  •  208 pages  •  Fiction
April 2018

Safety Sand
GARRY THOMAS MORSE
In this companion to Governor General’s Award finalists Discovery Passages and Prairie Harbour, Garry Thomas Morse resumes his expansionist mapping of lyrical consciousness onto geographical concerns, acknowledging the unsettled edges of an imaginary territory.
978-1-77201-198-2  •  $16.95  •  160 pages  •  Poetry
May 2018

Checking In
ADEENA KARASICK
Checking In comprises a long poem and a series of other post-conceptual pieces – concrete poems, homolinguistic translations, Yiddish aphorisms – that offer exuberant commentary on the timelessness of digital information and our ravenous appetite for data and connection.
978-0-88922-200-2  •  $16.95  •  96 pages  •  Poetry
May 2018

Duets: Sonnets: Louise Labé : Guido Cavalcanti
EDWARD BYRNE
Edward Byrne’s Duets consists of interpretative translations of sonnets by Louise Labé, who lived and wrote in sixteenth-century Lyon, and those by thirteenth-century Florentine Guido Cavalcanti.
978-1-77201-199-9  •  $16.95  •  96 pages  •  Poetry
April 2018

Talker’s Town and The Girl Who Swam Forever
Two Plays
MARIE CLEMENTS & NELSON GRAY
The two one-act plays in Talker’s Town and The Girl Who Swam Forever are set in a small B.C. mill town in the 1960s. They portray identical characters and actions from entirely different gender and cultural perspectives. In many ways, the two separate works are inter-related coming-of-age stories, with transformation as a key theme.
978-1-77201-201-9  •  $16.95  •  96 pages  •  Drama
May 2018

Therapist’s Town and The Girl Who Swam Forever
Two Plays
MARIE CLEMENTS & NELSON GRAY

The Eyelash and the Monochrome
TIZIANA LA MELIA
The Eyelash and the Monochrome meshes conflicting modes of thinking to produce a collage of thought through the body, through the material, and through slippages of language.
978-1-77201-197-5  •  $17.95  •  112 pages  •  Poetry
April 2018

Kuei, My Friend
A Conversation on Race and Reconciliation
DENI ELLIS BÉCHARD & NATASHA KANAPÉ FONATINE
translated by Deni Ellis Béchard & Howard Scott
Kuei, My Friend is an engaging book of letters: a literary and political encounter between Innu poet Natasha Kanapé Fontaine and Quebecois-American novelist Deni Ellis Béchard. Choosing the epistolary form, they decided to engage in a frank conversation about racism and reconciliation.
978-1-77201-195-1  •  $17.95  •  176 pages  •  Non-fiction
March 2018

The Cure for Death by Lightning
DARYL CLORAN
Set in Turtle Valley (near Kamloops, British Columbia) in the shadow of the Second World War, The Cure for Death by Lightning tells a dark, challenging story that includes sexual abuse, grief, and the day-to-day struggle for survival.
978-1-77201-205-7  •  $16.95  •  96 pages  •  Drama
April 2018

Safety Sand
GARRY THOMAS MORSE
In this companion to Governor General’s Award finalists Discovery Passages and Prairie Harbour, Garry Thomas Morse resumes his expansionist mapping of lyrical consciousness onto geographical concerns, acknowledging the unsettled edges of an imaginary territory.
978-1-77201-198-2  •  $16.95  •  160 pages  •  Poetry
May 2018

Checking In
ADEENA KARASICK
Checking In comprises a long poem and a series of other post-conceptual pieces – concrete poems, homolinguistic translations, Yiddish aphorisms – that offer exuberant commentary on the timelessness of digital information and our ravenous appetite for data and connection.
978-0-88922-200-2  •  $16.95  •  96 pages  •  Poetry
May 2018

The Cure for Death by Lightning
DARYL CLORAN
The novel is set in Turtle Valley (near Kamloops, British Columbia) in the shadow of the Second World War.
A N ALLEY NEAR HASTINGS AND MAIN IS A SHADOWY BRICK CANYON. USED NEEDLES LIE ON THE PAVEMENT. ITS PULPIDS HOLD AN AMMONIA REEK OF URINE. ALONG ONE WALL, A MAN AND WOMAN SCAVENGE IN A DUMPSTER.

That's the cliché.

Most people across Canada know by now that Vancouver, along with Seattle and Portland, is Canada's locus for opioid addiction and overdose deaths. But these days there's an upbeat story that deserves telling.

This downtrodden neighbourhood has led the way for introducing harm reduction measures for drug users and detox services kept many drug users alive and as healthy as possible, giving them the option to quit hard drugs on their own.

Lupick includes chapters about the opioid epidemic in various U.S. cities, and various attempts to introduce harm reduction in the face of the intensive war on drugs. Meanwhile, in Vancouver, Portland Hotel Society staff members literally saved lives by resuscitating overdose victims in the run-down hotels they managed.

The roll call of activists and allies includes Larry Campbell, Coco Culbertson, Ann Livingston, Gabor Mate, Philip Owen, Christian Owen, John Richardson, Nettie Wild and Dean Wilson.

Lupick was inspired by British journalist Johann Hari’s Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs, a wide-ranging read that includes chapters about the Downtown Eastside. “I read that book in almost literally a single sitting,” he says. “His central thesis is that prohibition and criminalization of drugs actually do more harm than the drugs themselves. And he fleshed that idea out with characters and anecdotes.”

For a different take, he read Literary Outlaw by Ted Morgan, a frequently unflattering biography of the Beat satirical writer and self-described junkie William S. Burroughs. “I wanted that kind of honesty in this book,” Lupick says.

A third key resource was Gabor Mate’s In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction. Mate, a physician, spent years treating injection drug users while on staff with Insite’s detox program. “His idea that prohibition is victimization,” says Lupick, “that most drug users, at least down here, are just self-medicating for past abuse or past trauma, that was an idea that I tried to weave into the book.”

Lupick, at 32, is a Georgia Straight veteran. After he loaded bales of newspapers and toled in the office to finance his political science studies at McGill University, he started reporting, mentored by editor Charlie Smith. He also gained an international perspective by freelancing in Africa for two years.

“I put a lot of pressure on myself to do justice to the people who were giving me their time and sharing their life with me,” Lupick says. “I saw that people are being pushed to the shadows, pushed out of housing, pushed out of the health care system. We don’t treat drug users like human beings…”

Fighting for Space covers the 1990s overdose crisis and its aftermath, when powerful heroin killed thousands. The current overdose crisis is worse because cheap synthetic opioids, fentanyl and carfentanil, are more deadly. Some 1500 overdose deaths are predicted in B.C. this year. Most supervised injection site users must still get drugs from street dealers.

David Conn is a retired librarian, poet, journalist and Raincoast Chronicles editor.

**WRITE WHO YOU KNOW**

**NEEDLES & PENS**

**Having lived for years in the Downtown Eastside, journalist Travis Lupick has won this year’s George Ryga Award for Social Awareness for documenting how a coterie of courageous Vancouverites created North America’s first supervised injection site.**

**Travis Lupick with needle drop box in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. He wrote his book at a cafe called the Lost + Found.**
From award-winning journalist Sarah Cox comes the inspiring and astonishing story of the farmers and First Nations who fought the most expensive megaproject in BC history and the government-sanctioned bullying that propelled it forward.
Why Canada doesn't have a travel ban

Immigrant women share their truths for Wherever I Find Myself.

Stories like NikNaz’s demonstrate how empty the idea of diversity is unless we are committed to learning and honouring that diversity.

Diverse lived experiences offer new perspectives on tackling the challenges we face as a nation, such as the racism, sexism, and homophobia explored by NikNaz.

The task of exploring immigration in its plurality led me to ask what defines Canadianness—and if it even exists.

These authors speak honestly and with powerful voices about a process that has been both central to my own being as a second-generation Chinese immigrant and one that has too often been obscured from my own learning.

Beyond reflections of family members waving goodbye, or the typical temperature shock of a Canadian winter, these stories imagine immigration as a lifelong process.

FOR FANS OF Wild AND Eat Pray Love

The story of one woman’s search for herself—across three continents, into the depths of heartache, and through the healing power of the kitchen.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GROW</strong></th>
<th><strong>MAKE</strong></th>
<th><strong>BUILD</strong></th>
<th><strong>CHANGE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate-Wise Landscaping</strong>&lt;br&gt;Practical Actions for a Sustainable Future&lt;br&gt;<strong>Sue Reed &amp; Ginny Stibolt</strong>&lt;br&gt;US/CA $29.99&lt;br&gt;... a comprehensive book that outlines dozens of actions that people can take to adjust to evolving climate regimes.” — Dr. Peter Robinson, former CEO, David Suzuki Foundation</td>
<td><strong>Wild Mushrooms</strong>&lt;br&gt;From Forest to Table&lt;br&gt;<strong>Alan Muskat</strong>&lt;br&gt;US/CA $24.99&lt;br&gt;Fun, informative, practical – whether or not you put your mushroom where your mouth is!</td>
<td><strong>Essential Earthbag Construction</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Complete Step-by-Step Guide&lt;br&gt;<strong>Kelly Hart</strong>&lt;br&gt;US/CA $37.99&lt;br&gt;Build economical and resilient earthbag structures using simple tools and techniques</td>
<td><strong>In the Business of Change</strong>&lt;br&gt;How Social Entrepreneurs are Disrupting Business as Usual&lt;br&gt;<strong>Elisa Birnbaum</strong>&lt;br&gt;US/CA $17.99&lt;br&gt;Meet the social entrepreneurs who are using business to disrupt the status quo and rebuild their communities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dwarfed by later mega-projects, the John Hart Dam was a benchmark in dam building for B.C., the ‘grandfather’ of the controversial Site C dam.

The book is one of several historical and commemorative volumes sponsored by ex-B.C. Hydro employees, the “BC Hydro Power Pioneers.” While not entirely uncritical, the book’s conclusion in advance is that the project is a “classic example of how water power can co-exist with other traditional land uses while providing emission-free, renewable energy.”

Stoffman acknowledges that conflict between economical growth and environmental protection was an issue from the start. But, after all, this is British Columbia, and we know those fish aren’t in the Campbell River to be admired; they are there to be caught for sport and as trophies.

The impact of the John Hart Dam is not just direct, but also indirect and emission-free. Presumably BC Hydro is not responsible in any way for emissions and effluents from its pulp mill customers. Meanwhile, while earlier diverting more or less all water from Elk Falls, since the 1990s BC Hydro has been required to send some over the falls for aesthetic and tourism purposes.

Social and labour historians will note there is no engagement with issues of class. At least some of the work force was unionized and a brief allusion is made to labour strife. But strikes are pesky things that interfered with construction by restricting the availability of lumber and steel.

The impact on employee, Jeremy Mouat’s centennial history of West Kootenay Power & Light, The Business of Power (Sons Nis Press, 1997), was an especially good example.

The Hydro Pioneers have got their money’s worth with Daniel Stoffman’s People, Power, and Progress. This handsomely produced and lavishly illustrated volume will help keep the historical memory of the original John Hart project alive. It will also be a helpful point of departure for any future academic study.
ANTING TO BREAK FREE from a rigged economic and social system, the West Coast based Mud Girls Natural Building Collective decided in 2007 to make their own homes using mud—one of the most abundant building materials on earth.

Initially most of the women in the Mud Girls Natural Building Collective had very little building experience. Having families to support and needing roofs over their heads, the group chose not to lobby governments and banks for support but to forge ahead, making their own rules as they went along.

Voila! The Mudgirls revolution was born.

Their common practices include: respect the earth and each other, learn by actually doing, have fun, share whatever is learned with whoever wants to join in, and gather skills and allies along the way.

Now the collective builds houses, offers workshops that empower people to take back the right to provide shelter for themselves, and has created Mudgirls Manifesto: Handbuilt Homes, Handcrafted Lives (New Society $29.95).

Mudgirls Manifesto has a detailed section on natural building tips, discussions on proper materials, plaster-making recipes, and details to help build dry stack foundation (using stones), but also “it lays out the insanity of the current system we reside in and how we strive to stay out of the conventional rat race.”

With about fifteen women involved, “We learned to build by building.” —Mud Girls Clare Kenny, Bec McGuire and Anna Himmelman.

it’s an evolving, counter-cultural movement that has a definite Gulf Islands vibe. Mudgirls Manifesto will spread the word about spreading the mud.

The Mudgirls write: “Our book is based on our philosophy—if nobody is going to change the rules so that they make sense in terms of basic needs, rights, and respect for the biosphere that supports our very existence, then we should feel free to make our own rules. “It happens to be cast through the perspective of building homes—but providing oneself with shelter is intimately bound up with the structure of everything in our lives.

“We are seeking to provide a true alternative to a wasteful, oppressive system that creates toxic boxes that inherently remove our right to learn, grow and challenge ourselves as people. “The fact that we are women—traditionally disempowered in the building trades—and mothers—disempowered everywhere—only underlines the fact that this revolution is available to everybody who wants to step outside the “box.”

“We seek to do our business in a non-capitalist spirit. We keep the cost of natural building affordable by keeping our wages low, offering our workshop for barter, building for people with low-income as much as we can.” —Mudgirls

LIVING
HERE’S MUD IN YOUR EYE

A DIY solution to the housing crisis

WANTING TO BREAK FREE from a rigged economic and social system, the West Coast based Mud Girls Natural Building Collective decided in 2007 to make their own homes using mud—one of the most abundant building materials on earth.

Initially most of the women in the Mud Girls Natural Building Collective had very little building experience. Having families to support and needing roofs over their heads, the group chose not to lobby governments and banks for support but to forge ahead, making their own rules as they went along.

Voila! The Mudgirls revolution was born.

Their common practices include: respect the earth and each other, learn by actually doing, have fun, share whatever is learned with whoever wants to join in, and gather skills and allies along the way.

Now the collective builds houses, offers workshops that empower people to take back the right to provide shelter for themselves, and has created Mudgirls Manifesto: Handbuilt Homes, Handcrafted Lives (New Society $29.95).

Mudgirls Manifesto has a detailed section on natural building tips, discussions on proper materials, plaster-making recipes, and details to help build dry stack foundation (using stones), but also “it lays out the insanity of the current system we reside in and how we strive to stay out of the conventional rat race.”

With about fifteen women involved, “We learned to build by building.” —Mud Girls Clare Kenny, Bec McGuire and Anna Himmelman.

it’s an evolving, counter-cultural movement that has a definite Gulf Islands vibe. Mudgirls Manifesto will spread the word about spreading the mud.

The Mudgirls write: “Our book is based on our philosophy—if nobody is going to change the rules so that they make sense in terms of basic needs, rights, and respect for the biosphere that supports our very existence, then we should feel free to make our own rules. “It happens to be cast through the perspective of building homes—but providing oneself with shelter is intimately bound up with the structure of everything in our lives.

“We are seeking to provide a true alternative to a wasteful, oppressive system that creates toxic boxes that inherently remove our right to learn, grow and challenge ourselves as people. “The fact that we are women—traditionally disempowered in the building trades—and mothers—disempowered everywhere—only underlines the fact that this revolution is available to everybody who wants to step outside the “box.”

“We seek to do our business in a non-capitalist spirit. We keep the cost of natural building affordable by keeping our wages low, offering our workshop for barter, building for people with low-income as much as we can.” —Mudgirls
Three histories catch up on the pivotal role of unions in B.C. from 1849 to 2018.

Geoff Meggs: Horgan’s write-hand man


Strange New Country: The Fraser River Salmon Strikes of 1900 and the Birth of Modern British Columbia by Geoff Meggs (Harbour, 2012)

Longshoring on the Fraser: Stories & History of ILWU Local 502 by Chris Madsen, Liam O’Flaherty, Michelle La (Granville Island $29.95)

Back in 1978, “waterfront workers experienced a ‘gradual professionalization of work’ based on a new work safety culture that emphasized workers self-discipline in areas such as substance abuse on the job and the enforcement of workplace safety regulations. ‘Local 502 survived by emphasizing workers’ role as indispensable and responsible partners of employers. Such partnership deepened through the 1990s as members of the local took part in foreign trade missions that succeeded in finding new business for the port of New Westminster.”

In other words, measured cooperation won the day. Arising from a community-based oral history project, Longshoring on the Fraser is not heavy on analysis, according to Cadigan.

“The emergence of the neo-liberal state, the rolling back of social welfare, wage and job losses, and the curtailment of union rights have been major reversals for working people throughout Canada, including the members of Local 502,” he writes.

“Yet the selling of New Westminster’s port on the international stage by members of Local 502, an example of the neoliberalism that has otherwise been so problematic for working people, is touted here by the authors as a major success for workers and the community.”

Cadigan nonetheless endorses Longshoring on the Fraser as an accessible cellartext of the history of ILWU Local 502 in New Westminster. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions.

Veteran labour historian Sean Cadigan comments on mechanization in his extensive review of Longshoring on the Fraser. “waterfront workers experienced a ‘gradual professionalization of work’ based on a new work safety culture that emphasized workers’ role as indispensable and responsible partners of employers. Such partnership deepened through the 1990s as members of the local took part in foreign trade missions that succeeded in finding new business for the port of New Westminster.”

In other words, measured cooperation won the day. Arising from a community-based oral history project, Longshoring on the Fraser is not heavy on analysis, according to Cadigan.

“The emergence of the neo-liberal state, the rolling back of social welfare, wage and job losses, and the curtailment of union rights have been major reversals for working people throughout Canada, including the members of Local 502,” he writes.

“Yet the selling of New Westminster’s port on the international stage by members of Local 502, an example of the neoliberalism that has otherwise been so problematic for working people, is touted here by the authors as a major success for workers and the community.”

Back in 1978, “waterfront workers experienced a ‘gradual professionalization of work’ based on a new work safety culture that emphasized workers self-discipline in areas such as substance abuse on the job and the enforcement of workplace safety regulations. ‘Local 502 survived by emphasizing workers’ role as indispensable and responsible partners of employers. Such partnership deepened through the 1990s as members of the local took part in foreign trade missions that succeeded in finding new business for the port of New Westminster.”

In other words, measured cooperation won the day. Arising from a community-based oral history project, Longshoring on the Fraser is not heavy on analysis, according to Cadigan.

“The emergence of the neo-liberal state, the rolling back of social welfare, wage and job losses, and the curtailment of union rights have been major reversals for working people throughout Canada, including the members of Local 502,” he writes.

“Yet the selling of New Westminster’s port on the international stage by members of Local 502, an example of the neoliberalism that has otherwise been so problematic for working people, is touted here by the authors as a major success for workers and the community.”

Cadigan nonetheless endorses Longshoring on the Fraser as an accessible cellartext of the history of ILWU Local 502 in New Westminster. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions.

Veteran labour historian Sean Cadigan comments on mechanization in his extensive review of Longshoring on the Fraser. “waterfront workers experienced a ‘gradual professionalization of work’ based on a new work safety culture that emphasized workers’ role as indispensable and responsible partners of employers. Such partnership deepened through the 1990s as members of the local took part in foreign trade missions that succeeded in finding new business for the port of New Westminster.”

In other words, measured cooperation won the day. Arising from a community-based oral history project, Longshoring on the Fraser is not heavy on analysis, according to Cadigan.

“The emergence of the neo-liberal state, the rolling back of social welfare, wage and job losses, and the curtailment of union rights have been major reversals for working people throughout Canada, including the members of Local 502,” he writes.

“Yet the selling of New Westminster’s port on the international stage by members of Local 502, an example of the neoliberalism that has otherwise been so problematic for working people, is touted here by the authors as a major success for workers and the community.”

Cadigan nonetheless endorses Longshoring on the Fraser as an accessible cellartext of the history of ILWU Local 502 in New Westminster. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions.

Veteran labour historian Sean Cadigan comments on mechanization in his extensive review of Longshoring on the Fraser. “waterfront workers experienced a ‘gradual professionalization of work’ based on a new work safety culture that emphasized workers’ role as indispensable and responsible partners of employers. Such partnership deepened through the 1990s as members of the local took part in foreign trade missions that succeeded in finding new business for the port of New Westminster.”

In other words, measured cooperation won the day. Arising from a community-based oral history project, Longshoring on the Fraser is not heavy on analysis, according to Cadigan.

“The emergence of the neo-liberal state, the rolling back of social welfare, wage and job losses, and the curtailment of union rights have been major reversals for working people throughout Canada, including the members of Local 502,” he writes.

“Yet the selling of New Westminster’s port on the international stage by members of Local 502, an example of the neoliberalism that has otherwise been so problematic for working people, is touted here by the authors as a major success for workers and the community.”

Cadigan nonetheless endorses Longshoring on the Fraser as an accessible cellartext of the history of ILWU Local 502 in New Westminster. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions. A less charitable response would be churlish given that there are obviously far more B.C. books devoted to company histories or memoirs by entrepreneurs, than there are books about specific unions.
“In Saul’s records I found newspaper clippings and letters that detailed how Saul and Johnny spent two years fighting the Ku Klux Klan, who threatened to kill Johnny because they mistakenly thought his first wife Vivian was black.”

—Julie Chadwick, author of The Man Who Carried Cash
**Island of the Blue Foxes: Disaster and Triumph on Bering’s Great Voyage to Alaska**

_Stephen Bown_ 1995

*Harper & Row* (D&M $34.95)

In 1728, beset by fog, Vitus Bering named this place (Island of the Blue Foxes) in June of 1741. The survivors scrambled ashore and constructed a makeshift camp from the salvaged stores of the ship. Here on this desolate, unchartered, uninhabited island they were destined to spend the next eight months, surviving as they could, choking down rotten whale blubber or sinewy sea lion meat while fending off the relentless attacks of hordes of feral blue arctic foxes.

Vitus Bering died on December 8, 1741 on Bering Island (east of Kamchatka). He was buried in a sandbank on the side of a wind-swept hill.

Logbooks have survived, in addition to the accounts made by Sven Waxell and Steller, that reveal the daily struggles, personal quarrels and aspirations of the adventurers.

Of the 76 men who had sailed with Bering from Petropavlovsk six months before, only 16 were still alive by the end of 1741. These survivors eventually constructed a small ship from the wreck of the St. Peter and sailed the 442 km home to Kamchatka.

*Stephen Bown likes to take a broader view and narrate his approach to writing about history; less interested in statistics than in the lives of the people involved.*

“I love a great story,” he says, “and for whatever reason the incredible adventure of Russia’s Great Northern Expedition and the disastrous voyage across the Pacific from Kamchatka to Alaska, has never been fully told before except in academic publications.”

“I want people to be as amazed as I was with this story and perhaps have a greater appreciation for life in those times, the daily danger, risks, bravery and curiosity it took for those voyages, to seek out those small island stories and to forge an understanding of the big picture.”

“At the same time, these men had a powerful urge to survive and return home when faced with what can only be termed extreme suffering and disaster.”

*Island of the Blue Foxes* was short-listed for the $30,000 Balfour Award for the best non-fiction book on a polar topic.

---

**Bering’s DIRE STRAIT**

_Stephen Bown_ 1995


The stranded survivors of Vitus Bering’s 1741 expedition were starving as they fended off relentless attacks from hordes of feral blue arctic foxes.

**Who knows but that perhaps trade winds may arise which may prevent us from returning? We do not know this country, nor are we supplied with provisions to keep us through the winter.”**

It is often assumed that Bering’s first voyage must have accomplished the first proven landfall by Europeans on the North Pacific Coast during his follow-up voyage. In fact, Bering’s sailing partner, Aleksei Chirikov, preceded Bering’s landing by five days when his crew made landfall north of Dixon Entrance, in Alaskan territory, on July 15, 1741.

**STEVEn BOWN’S ISLAND OF THE BLUE FOXES**

*Review* 1995

**VITUS BERING’S DIRE STRAIT**

*Review* 1995

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The stranded survivors of Vitus Bering’s 1741 expedition were starving as they fended off relentless attacks from hordes of feral blue arctic foxes. Words were prophetic. Beset by scurvy, his crew of 76 was reduced to just ten healthy men by October as the ship was spun uncontrollably about the north Pacific by a storm. Men perished miserably and were pitched overboard while the rigging and sails were ripped asunder. Destroyed. More like a wreck than a ship, the St. Peter was driven onto the beach as the men desperately sought shelter on cape, ripping a hole in the hull.

The survivors scrambled ashore and constructed a makeshift camp from the salvaged stores of the ship. Here on this desolate, uncharted, uninhabited island they were destined to spend the next eight months, surviving as they could, choking down rotten whale blubber or sinewy sea lion meat while fending off the relentless attacks of hordes of feral blue arctic foxes.

Vitus Bering died on December 8, 1741 on Bering Island (east of Kamchatka). He was buried in a sandbank on the side of a wind-swept hill.

Logbooks have survived, in addition to the accounts made by Sven Waxell and Steller, that reveal the daily struggles, personal quarrels and aspirations of the adventurers.

Of the 76 men who had sailed with Bering from Petropavlovsk six months before, only 16 were still alive by the end of 1741. These survivors eventually constructed a small ship from the wreck of the St. Peter and sailed the 442 km home to Kamchatka.

*Stephen Bown likes to take a broader view and narrate his approach to writing about history; less interested in statistics than in the lives of the people involved.*

“I love a great story,” he says, “and for whatever reason the incredible adventure of Russia’s Great Northern Expedition and the disastrous voyage across the Pacific from Kamchatka to Alaska, has never been fully told before except in academic publications.”

“I want people to be as amazed as I was with this story and perhaps have a greater appreciation for life in those times, the daily danger, risks, bravery and curiosity it took for those voyages, to seek out those small island stories and to forge an understanding of the big picture.”

“At the same time, these men had a powerful urge to survive and return home when faced with what can only be termed extreme suffering and disaster.”

*Island of the Blue Foxes* was short-listed for the $30,000 Balfour Award for the best non-fiction book on a polar topic.

---

**The first landfall in North America by Vitus Bering’s men occurred at a place now called Kayak Island. Khtirov sketched a map in his logbook, the first Russian map to represent territory in North America. When Bering’s expedition first sighted North American land, Bering was congratulated by his men but he was not cheerful. He told his scientist Georg Steller, “We think now we have accomplished everything, and may go about greatly inflated, but they do not consider where we have reached land, how far we are from home, and what may yet happen.”**

“Who knows but that perhaps trade winds may arise which may prevent us from returning? We do not know this country, nor are we supplied with provisions to keep us through the winter.”

Vitus Bering, as depicted in this 1890s Russian illustration, didn’t survive his final voyage. Ditto for Ferdinand Magellan and James Cook.
Congratulations to Hiro Kanagawa from Playwrights Canada Press

**Indian Arm** is the winner of the Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama

In this modern adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s *Little Eyolf*, two families collide at the uneasy intersection of privilege and birthright.

9781770915725 • $17.95

playwrightscanada.com
Creative Writing
Work with a mentor in a supportive community

The Writer’s Studio
Online program starts September 2018
Application accepted May-June

Also available in Vancouver

sfu.ca/creative-writing
foundations, which crack and crumble.

The best of Jack Knox's humour columns for the Victoria Times-Colonist make for delightfully terse reading in Opportunity Knox: Twenty Years of Award Losing Humor Writing (Heritage $19.95).

That subtitle is an oblique reference to the fact that his previous book, Hard Knox, was shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour but didn’t win.

"Women adore him," his bio states. "Men want to be him. His hobbies include playing in a rock-and-roll band, being awesome and self-delusion."

Jack Knox

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold. Roving gangs of feral youth burn crops and knock over liquor stores.

We do occasionally make mistakes with local names—for example, assuming that any school in the Sooke school district is in Sooke, or that any business on Oak Bay Avenue is in Oak Bay. We stumble over the idea that Becher Bay is home to the Beecher Bay band, also known as the Cheanuh, also known as the Scia’new First Nation, which somehow turned into Sc'ianew, our application of apostrophes to Aboriginal names sometimes resembling a game of Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

In our defence, it should be pointed out that we have also had trouble spelling our own name: while the Times-Colonist became the byphenless Times Colonist in December 1994, the files show that Brinepools) buried the name coming from the brine pools (or is the brine pool?) burbling up on its north end.

Local usage tilts toward use of words, though there’s hardly unanimity. (When have Islanders agreed on whisky when referring to Canadian wine when referring to Canadian whiskey when referring to Canadian whisky when referring to Canadian whisky when referring to Canadian whisky?)

The mid-1990s replacement, the invention of boosters who wanted to give the area an image makeover, was West Shore or Westshore.

Even today, there’s a confusion of proper names: Note that on Friday we ran a story about a woman who was sentenced in the Western Communities Courthouse after being arrested by the West Shore RCMP for a robbery near the Westshore Town Centre mall. We can assume the Westshore Chamber of Commerce wasn’t amused.

Change does come, though. Once upon a time, any Times-Colonist reporter who wrote "Pat Bay Highway instead of Patricia Bay Highway was dragged behind the presses and beaten, but that is no longer the case.

And now we have the shift from Saltspring to Salt Spring, as dictated by the official version, Salt Spring, as adopted by the Geographic Board of Canada in 1910. This is how newspapers settle questions of usage: blind, unsung ad
erence to the rules. This applies not only to place names but the language (say, percent instead of per cent) risks error when referring to Canadian or Scottish, whiskey when American or Irish) and weak reporters.

Without consistent application of the rules, we lose credibility, the argument goes. Without order, there is chaos. Lawlessness seeps into society’s foundations, which crack and crumble.

Legal Cannabis represents a $50 billion dollar per year industry and "big business" competitors have yet to emerge. You can easily find books for marijuana entrepreneurs opening retail locations, and books about how to grow cannabis. CannaBiz is the only book on the market that is for marijuana retailers, growers, producers, suppliers, distributors, and everything in between.

$22.95 CAD | Paperback | Download Kit

Survive With Your Sanity Intact!

CannaBiz Big Business Opportunities in the New Multibillion Dollar Marijuana Industry New Tapicero

Join the Cannabis Revolution!

CannaBiz is the only book on the market that is for marijuana retailers, growers, producers, suppliers, distributors, and everything in between.

$22.95 CAD | Paperback | Download Kit

Join the Cannabis Revolution!

CannaBiz Big Business Opportunities in the New Multibillion Dollar Marijuana Industry New Tapicero

Legal Cannabis represents a $50 billion dollar per year industry and "big business" competitors have yet to emerge. You can easily find books for marijuana entrepreneurs opening retail locations, and books about how to grow cannabis. CannaBiz is the only book on the market that is for marijuana retailers, growers, producers, suppliers, distributors, and everything in between.

$22.95 CAD | Paperback | Download Kit

Survive With Your Sanity Intact!

CannaBiz Big Business Opportunities in the New Multibillion Dollar Marijuana Industry New Tapicero

Join the Cannabis Revolution!

CannaBiz Big Business Opportunities in the New Multibillion Dollar Marijuana Industry New Tapicero

Legal Cannabis represents a $50 billion dollar per year industry and "big business" competitors have yet to emerge. You can easily find books for marijuana entrepreneurs opening retail locations, and books about how to grow cannabis. CannaBiz is the only book on the market that is for marijuana retailers, growers, producers, suppliers, distributors, and everything in between.

$22.95 CAD | Paperback | Download Kit

Survive With Your Sanity Intact!

CannaBiz Big Business Opportunities in the New Multibillion Dollar Marijuana Industry New Tapicero

Join the Cannabis Revolution!

CannaBiz Big Business Opportunities in the New Multibillion Dollar Marijuana Industry New Tapicero

Legal Cannabis represents a $50 billion dollar per year industry and "big business" competitors have yet to emerge. You can easily find books for marijuana entrepreneurs opening retail locations, and books about how to grow cannabis. CannaBiz is the only book on the market that is for marijuana retailers, growers, producers, suppliers, distributors, and everything in between.

$22.95 CAD | Paperback | Download Kit

Survive With Your Sanity Intact!

CannaBiz Big Business Opportunities in the New Multibillion Dollar Marijuana Industry New Tapicero

Join the Cannabis Revolution!
Sustenance: Writers from BC and Beyond on the Subject of Food
edited by Rachel Rose
(Aravel Press $25)

BY CAROLINE WOODWARD

A new poet laureate for the City of Vancouver from 2014-2017, Rachel Rose wanted a community project which offered another world view than the mattering and braying about walls to keep out the Other.

Rose had already spent years volunteering with Burmese families in Surrey, shopping for food, shampooing hair, attending graduations, weddings and funerals. Her genuine Canadian hospitality imbues her book project, a celebratory mish-mash of cultures and food.

There are 151 tidbits and recipes to savour from writers who live in Vancouver, and from elsewhere around the world. There are farmers, beekeepers, fishers and backyard gardeners, First Nations, Mestis, refugees and celebrated chefs like Meera Dhalwala, Vikram Vij and Frank Pabst, nearly-anonymous librarians who write like angels, thoughtful children and wise elders, some speaking Arabic and Cree, plus poets such as Lorna Crozier, John Pass, Susan Musgrave and Fred Wah.

Sustenance doubles as an inspired love letter to the city. The selected writings, with an abiding focus on human rights, are unfailingly eloquent.

The voices are as diverse as the forms: interviews, memoirs, recipes, both literal and figurative, prose and poems, some as paeans to moose meat, bees, bread, beer, tomatoes, rice, beloved grandmothers, salmon, maple syrup, elk heart and fresh berries.

Jane Bilton’s ‘Cooking Class & Marriage Lessons’ is hilarious. Karen Barnaby’s ‘Blackberry Fever’ is heartbreaking. Jeff Steudel’s ‘Recipe’ is sensual.

The writers tackle subjects as difficult as anorexia, obesity, starvation, sugar, animal deaths, and allergies, real and possibly imposed (see ‘Check the Ingredients!’ by Ayla Maxwell, a grade 6 student at Vancouver’s Charles Dickens Elementary School). Food, sustenance, is intensely personal as well as political.

NEW BOOKS
FROM THE ARSENAL

SODOM ROAD EXIT
Amber Dawn


THE PLAGUE
Kevin Chung

‘A nuanced study of human nature under biological, social, and historical siege, and a terrific riff on the Camus classic.’ —Eden Robinson, author of Son of a Trickster.

LITTLE FISH
Casey Pitsiulak

‘Fearless and messy and snotting with love, Little Fish is a devastating book that I don’t ever want to be without.’ —Zoey Leigh Peterson, author of Next Year, For Sure.

JONNY APPLESEED
Joshua Whitehead

A tour-de-force debut novel about a Two-Spirit Indigenous young man and proud NDN glitter princess who must reckon with his past when he returns home to his reserve.

PROPERTY VALUES
Charles Demers

“In Property Values, Canada’s best and most socially engaged comedian takes aim at the housing crisis and the death of journalism with equal parts humour, outrage, and literary virtuosity.” —Sam Webster, author of Invisible Dead.

FORWARD: A Graphic Novel
Lisa Mats

“A moving depiction of grief and loss, but one that also includes sweet moments of sexual desire, joy, and laughter, which boggles the sense. Image; time; times.” —Sarah Leavitt, author of Tangible.

CAL (read Billeh Nickerson’s smart, incisive poem ‘A Baker’s Dozen: 13 Vancouver Food (In)Securities’).

The final words, amid the cornucopia of offerings at this banquet for humanity, go to ten-year-old collaborators, Bodhi Cutler and Gus Jackson, who both attend Charles Dickens Elementary. Their short, sweet and perfectly apt essay sums up Sustenance:

‘Every dish is unique because each Vancouverite makes it a tiny bit different. We all have our styles and our ingredients, our suppliers and our equipment. There are restaurants who will probably make great pasta with the best calamari. Your mom can make a great homemade meal she invented herself. No two meals taste the same because they are like humans, unique and great. ’

A good portion of the money raised by sales from Sustenance, as well as every single writer’s honorarium, will be donated to the BC Farmer’s Market Nutrition Coupon Program so that low-income families will have access to fresh, locally grown food.

978-1-77214-101-6

Caroline Woodward, writer, poet, and lighthouse keeper, grows a big garden and cooks feasts for her friends at the Leonard Island Lighthouse.
Commemorating Canada: History, Memory, & Memory, 1850s-1990s
by Cecilia Morgan (UTP $26.95)

BY MIKE STARR

Cecilia Morgan’s Commemorating Canada is a good place to start when examining the role of historical commemoration in Canada. The book is part of the Themes in Canadian History series, published by University of Toronto Press, “designed to open up a subject to the non-specialist reader.” Morgan takes on a monumen
tal task to document the ways Canadians commemorate their history. Starting, appropriately, with a recitation of history by members of the Iroquois Confederacy, Morgan provides examples of historical commemoration from a wide variety of forms of artistic and educational expression. Her inclusion of songs, parades and pageants, and school texts expanded my idea of commemoration.

As well as surveying the various forms of commemoration in Canada since the 1850s, Morgan points out instances of controversy or disagreement over the meaning of commemorations. For example, of the Vimy Ridge memorial unveiling in 1936, Morgan wonders, “Why was there so little scepticism, even cynicism, expressed in the face of commemorations that focused so relentlessly on the First World War as a noble and worthy sacrifice?”

In this age of re-examining and reassessing some of the historical figures commemorated in Canada—and when American Confederate statues are being toppled—the topic of commemoration is timely.

There have been calls to remove Sir John A. Macdonald’s name from schools in Ontario, and the Langevin Block on Parliament Hill, built in 1889, was recently renamed the Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council. Both of these “Fathers of Confederation” were associated with residential schools, and Macdonald personally took no action to stop them. Morgan notes only touches on these more recent political issues. In an overview of 150 years of Ontario Canadian commemorations it would be impractical to go much deeper.

Morgan also asks critical questions about how Indigenous Canadians were, or more likely weren’t, commemorated—while simultaneously their material culture was taken away for private or public museum collections.

WHAT IS COMMEMORATION, AND HOW does it differ from historical

narrative? Morgan does not distinguish between the two. Commemorating Canada explores “the variety of genres and methods that people have used to establish a relationship with the past.”

But historical narrative and commemoration are indeed distinct. One American curator recently argued that history is a “critical analysis of people and events,” whereas commemoration is “glorification or endorsement of those people and events.”

While I agree that placing a statue of someone in a public place has usually implied endorsement, or even glorification, I don’t think the distinction between history and commemoration is always clear. Much historical narrative, whether in written or other forms, has been uncriti
cal, while some statutory and other forms of artistic expres
sion are intended to inspire quiet or ironic reflection.

But mainly Morgan is justifying in equating commemora
tion with historical narrative. Both, broadly and ideally, need to ask critical questions about people and events in Canada’s history and include multiple perspectives on the complexities of the past.

Ottawa’s Beechwood Cem
tery did this in the case of Duncan Campbell Scott. Originally commemorated as “one of the outstanding figures in Canadian po
try,” in 2015 the cemetery unveiled a revised plaque recog
nizing Scott’s “notori
cus” career in the Department of Indian Affairs.

Re-thinking

MACDONALD

Bashing

BEGBIE

Increasingly we are realizing that statues and monuments are not always reliable reflections of history.

In 2015 the Sites and Monuments Board of Canada’s plaque to Mat
thew Baillie Begbie in Victoria.

The poster states that “Begbie got the nickname of the ‘Hanging Judge’ by being ruthless in his conviction of Criminals…” a majority of these ‘Criminals’ were Indigenous.” Some institutions, sensing such changes, have taken preemptive action to avoid criti
cism. In 2017, the Law Society of B.C. announced it would remove a sculpture of Begbie by the Pender Island artist Ralph Sketch from its lobby because, the Vancouver Sun noted, “it’s a colonial symbol that offends natives.” Not all interventions are so quiet or unobtrusive. In 2017 a statue of Cap
tain James Cook was defaced with graffiti in Sydney, Australia, with the words “NO PRIDE IN GENOCIDE” and “CHANGE THE DATE” spray-painted over the inscription that Cook “Discovered This Territory 1770.”

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, head of the Liberal Party, called it “part of a deeply disturbing and totalitarian campaign to not just challenge our history but to deny it and obliterate it.” A similar statue of Cook in Victoria’s Inner Harbour, opposite the Empress Hotel, has so far escaped unscathed.

I agree that we need to ask the critical questions and be curious, but we can’t simply create villains out of former heroes. History, and the people who made his
tory, are complex. We need to acknowledge the good and the bad in people, as well as in our country, and refuse to acclaim them uncritically as either heroes or villains.

While Morgan successfully opens up the subject of commemo
roration to non-specialist readers, the reader should not stop here. Many books, and still more articles, scholarly and popular, tackle this topic. Especially in light of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Canadians are ask
ing important questions about our history and how it is commemorated.

History will judge us if we don’t.

Mike Starr spent 24 years as an interpreter, planner, and manager at Parks Canada.

Judge Begbie by Ralph Sketch was removed from the Law Society of B.C. lobby in 2017.

...when he oversaw “the assimili
ationist Indian Residential School system.”

If public history agencies do not provide a balanced pic
ture of both the contributions and the failures of historic figures, others will step in and remove, edit, or deface the commemoration—or provide their own interpretation.

Early in 2017, for example, a page was pasted anony
mously next to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada’s plaque to Mat
thew Baillie Begbie.
“What’s that floppy bit?”

If you have a book in you, we can help you get it out — to the entire world!

Pauline Daniel

If you have a book in you, we can help you get it out — to the entire world!

Tuesdays with Jack

A Grandmother’s Love and a Little Boy’s Brilliance

Playing with her grandson on Tuesday, their day, is the highlight of Pauline Daniel’s week. She first shared her insights and his gems on Facebook and now in this funny and relatable book.

“How strong are your muscles, Bubba?” I proudly flex my bicep.

“What’s that floppy bit?”

“Come on Jack. Time to clean up.”

“I can hear, I’m not listening.”

Norm Cuddy

A young, damaged American woman who escaped the 1997 massacre of 45 Mayans in Chiapas returns to Mexico seeking revenge. A geopolitical thriller with a dose of love (from a Vancouver lawyer) is set four years later, when subcommandante Marcos, leader of the Zapatista rebels, is resurfacing, demanding autonomous political power and freedom for the Mayans.

Reluctant Warriors: Canadian Conscripts & the Great War by Patrick M. Dennis (UBC Press $39.95)

A four-year period of mounting- casualties and a growing shortage of manpower for the war effort, Prime Minister Robert Borden’s government in Ottawa passed the Military Service Act in 1917. By war’s end, 125,000 Canadians had been conscripted and 24,000 fought on the Western Front. These men were often unfairly dubbed “slackers, shirkers, or malingerers.”

In Reluctant Warriors, ex-Canadian Air Force colonel Patrick Dennis does much to break down the myths of conscription and he demonstrates the importance of the conscripts. Infantry battalions — where the greatest number served — were absolutely critical in the key battles of 1918 and particularly for the much-celebrated advance of the last hundred days of the war.

By examining individual stories, Dennis also makes a persuasive argument that these “ slackers” were as effective as the volunteer soldiers who had preceded them, and whose comrades they remained.

Nowadays, Dennis’s material on Lieutenant General Arthur Currie, the Commander of the Canadian Corps, is likely to raise more hackles, particularly in Victoria, where Currie had commanded both the Gordon Highlanders and the 5th Artillery Regiment.

Dennis’s description of Currie’s flaw but ultimately successful strategy is less convincing than the central focus of the book. In his material on Currie, Dennis has over-reached his core thesis concerning the character and worth of conscripts. Casualty figures and stories of death abound in Reluctant Warriors, but nowhere do we find a parallel examination of German casualties. Simply adding up casualty lists and telling tales of individual tragedy is not enough to destroy the image of Arthur Currie as Canada’s greatest general of the Great War.

Reluctant warriors were critical to the success of the Canadian Corps—but it does not follow that Currie’s use of this valuable resource was flawed, at least not without much more thorough analysis than Dennis musters.

Dennis’s appended statistical material, while providing a useful picture of the conscripts, also cries out for more analysis. For example, without looking at the breakdown by occupation for the entire group, Dennis’s suggestion that fewer miners died because they might have benefited from higher exemption rates is pure speculation. One might equally argue that fewer conscripted miners died because more miners enlisted before conscription was imposed.

In almost every battle described, Dennis argues that a pause here or a delay there would have allowed the in-famy time to recover. While that may well be true, any such slackening of an advance would have provided similar opportunities to the enemy.

It is a common error and conceit of military historians, far removed from battle, to second-guess successful commanders.

Military historians sometimes assert that, if only brilliant minds like theirs had been in command, much less blood would have been spilled. To make such a case requires more than a simplistic recitation of casualty and reinforcement figures dressed up with the tragic tales of those who died.

Despite these caveats, this book deserves to become an essential reference for any serious student examining the operations of the Canadian Corps in 1918.

GRANVILLE ISLAND PUBLISHING


978-1-926991-82-5 (pb) 978-1-926991-90-0 (e-book)


playful, reminding her reader that much of the conscripted army went on to lead successful lives.

The same cowards who didn’t volunteer for trench warfare madness turned out to be as hard to kill as the men who enlisted.

BY JIM KEMPLING
In a college you are likely going to be asked to give your name, age and your PGP—or your preferred gender pronoun. Your professor might be strictly required to address you in accordance with your PGP. Will that be ‘she’ and ‘her’, or ‘he’ and ‘him’? Or ‘it’ or ‘they’ or none of the above?

Also, please choose between Mr, Miss, Ms or Mx.

There aren’t two sexes anymore because there never were two sexes. Those who wish to reject the old school binary system can now do so under the ever-expanding umbrella of LGBTQ2QIAAP which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Allies and Pansexual.

That second A for Allies represents those who so strongly support the rejection of the binary system that they wish to reject the old school umbrella of LGBTQQIAAP which includes Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirited, gender queer, Canadian-born, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and settler.

They are teenagers and seniors; single and married; coming out to parents and becoming parents themselves. Woven together, these voices leave me with a sense of hopefulness: a belief that the creativity and fierce commitment of our community will carry us forward as we work to create a Canada that lives up to the dream of freedom and safety it represents to so many people around the world.”


In her foreword, Robin Stevenson (author of Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community (Orca, 2017), notes that the LGBTQ2SIA community in Canada is comprised of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirited, gender queer, Canadian-born, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and settler.

“They are teenagers and seniors; single and married; coming out to parents and becoming parents themselves. Woven together, these voices leave me with a sense of hopefulness: a belief that the creativity and fierce commitment of our community will carry us forward as we work to create a Canada that lives up to the dream of freedom and safety it represents to so many people around the world.”


The LGBTQ2SIA community in Canada is comprised of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirited, gender queer, Canadian-born, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and settler.

“They are teenagers and seniors; single and married; coming out to parents and becoming parents themselves. Woven together, these voices leave me with a sense of hopefulness: a belief that the creativity and fierce commitment of our community will carry us forward as we work to create a Canada that lives up to the dream of freedom and safety it represents to so many people around the world.”


In her foreword, Robin Stevenson (author of Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community (Orca, 2017), notes that the LGBTQ2SIA community in Canada is comprised of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirited, gender queer, Canadian-born, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and settler.

“They are teenagers and seniors; single and married; coming out to parents and becoming parents themselves. Woven together, these voices leave me with a sense of hopefulness: a belief that the creativity and fierce commitment of our community will carry us forward as we work to create a Canada that lives up to the dream of freedom and safety it represents to so many people around the world.”


In her foreword, Robin Stevenson (author of Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community (Orca, 2017), notes that the LGBTQ2SIA community in Canada is comprised of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirited, gender queer, Canadian-born, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and settler.

“They are teenagers and seniors; single and married; coming out to parents and becoming parents themselves. Woven together, these voices leave me with a sense of hopefulness: a belief that the creativity and fierce commitment of our community will carry us forward as we work to create a Canada that lives up to the dream of freedom and safety it represents to so many people around the world.”


In her foreword, Robin Stevenson (author of Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community (Orca, 2017), notes that the LGBTQ2SIA community in Canada is comprised of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirited, gender queer, Canadian-born, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and settler.

“They are teenagers and seniors; single and married; coming out to parents and becoming parents themselves. Woven together, these voices leave me with a sense of hopefulness: a belief that the creativity and fierce commitment of our community will carry us forward as we work to create a Canada that lives up to the dream of freedom and safety it represents to so many people around the world.”


In her foreword, Robin Stevenson (author of Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community (Orca, 2017), notes that the LGBTQ2SIA community in Canada is comprised of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirited, gender queer, Canadian-born, immigrant, refugee, Indigenous and settler.

“They are teenagers and seniors; single and married; coming out to parents and becoming parents themselves. Woven together, these voices leave me with a sense of hopefulness: a belief that the creativity and fierce commitment of our community will carry us forward as we work to create a Canada that lives up to the dream of freedom and safety it represents to so many people around the world.”

Deep River Night by Patrick Lane

McClelland & Stewart $32.00

The sawmill and the river

The hill farmer’s daughter, Myrna, and her whole Turfoot family are a hint of better things to come for Joel. Myrna’s mother is wise, an ‘old soul,’ and the father is understanding and helpful. Myrna’s brother, Emerson, will soon be like a younger brother to Joel. If anything, he will put that switchblade to use in protecting him, so it seems Joel has stumbled onto something that could sustain him. So, there is also loyalty, friendship, and honour in this jagged landscape.

Deep River Night presents a moody, unpredictable and non-urban world fraught with danger and beauty, like the river, beyond control. It’s fiction—but only for those who haven’t lived it.

Patrick Lane’s 25 volumes of poetry have garnered him numerous awards including the Governor General’s Award for Poetry, the Canadian Authors Association Award and the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence. Lane has also written essays, short stories, a memoir and a previous novel, Red Dog, Red Dog (Penguin, 2008), a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and the Amazon.ca/Canada Prize in Canadian First Novel Award.

Cherie Thiessen
regularly reviews fiction
from Pender Island.

This isn’t a pretty story, but no one reads Patrick Lane for ‘pretty’
Anarchism

who wonders what anarchism is, what it can be, and how we work towards it.”

—Mark Leier, author of Rebel Life

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

“...should 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

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).

Find it now at newstarbooks.com

CULTURE GAP

Towards a New World in the Yalakom Valley

JUDITH PLANT

“Judith Plant’s memoir of the fleeting 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

SYPN OFFERS from the FORGE!

BLACK STAR

a novel by Maureen Medved

“Medved joins to life a cast of academic washouts, Instagram careerists, vanguard idealists, and sex-deprived tenure-obsessed thought-experimentalists — each too grotesquely exquisitely grotesque not to seem utterly authentic.”

— Chris Hutchison, author of Jonas in Frames

Find it now at newstarbooks.com

HIDER/SEEKER

stories by Jen Currin

“Currin writes with precision, stories by Jen Currin

“...this collection is a work of art that cuts brilliantly through the truth.”

— Wayde Compton, author of The Outer Harbour

“Jen Currin writes into difficult places with delicacy, humour and meditative grace...”

— Shaena Lambert, author of Oh, My Darling

Find it now at newstarbooks.com

SLINKY NAÎVE

poetry by Caroline Szpak

“The urban, visceral, longing-infused poems in Slinky Naive are fast, dense, and laser-focused. And when the lines are funny, and they often are, it’s like laughing before the blade comes down.”

— Stuart Ross, author of A Sparrow Came Down Resplendent

Find it now at newstarbooks.com

BOLT

poetry by Hilary Peach

The debut collection from West Coast performance poet Hilary Peach, BOLT is a collection of scars and a compendium of remedies; a measurement of lightning. It’s the familiar impulse that occasionally seizes us all, to suddenly run, out of control. But it’s also a carefully engineered fastener that holds things together.

Find it now at newstarbooks.com
**From Scratch**

**Gail Anderson-Dargatz**

From Scratch is a recent release from Orca Books’ Rapid Reads Program—a genre of short, high-interest novels penned by bestselling authors with the aim of helping adults improve their literacy.

It is the story of a single mother, Eva (aka “Cookie”), a hardworking woman who finds herself facing unemployment when the owner of the local bakery where she works is forced to sell. Money is tight, and with a daughter in college and no promising job prospects in sight, protagonist Eva is just might be possible after all. A wild breath of fresh air for literary Canada. 978-1-896949-65-9 | 225 pages | $22.95 | paper

Linda Rogers

A beautiful body of work, the poet at his finest.

**Patrick Friesen**

A beautiful body of work, the poet at his finest.

**SPRING BRILLIANCE!**

**Crow Jazz**

Linda Rogers

A wild breath of fresh air for literary Canada. 978-1-896949-65-9 | 225 pages | $22.95 | paper

“Everyone is a reader… some just haven’t found their favourite book yet.”

—Anonymous

The Royal BC Museum Spring 2018 Publications Catalogue is available now. Which of our books will become your favourite?

**BY CAROL ANNE SHAW**

**From Scratch**

Gail Anderson-Dargatz’s From Scratch is a recent release from Orca Books’ Rapid Reads Program—a genre of short, high-interest novels penned by bestselling authors with the aim of helping adults improve their literacy.

It is the story of a single mother, Eva (aka “Cookie”), a hardworking woman who finds herself facing unemployment when the owner of the local bakery where she works is forced to sell. Money is tight, and with a daughter in college and no promising job prospects in sight, protagonist Eva is just might be possible after all. A wild breath of fresh air for literary Canada. 978-1-896949-65-9 | 225 pages | $22.95 | paper

Linda Rogers

A beautiful body of work, the poet at his finest.

**review**

**Young Adult**

Baker, homemaker, risktaker

A single mom learns how to start her own business and be the best cookie maker in town.

**From Scratch**

Gail Anderson-Dargatz

(Orca Books $9.95)

From Scratch is a recent release from Orca Books’ Rapid Reads Program—a genre of short, high-interest novels penned by bestselling authors with the aim of helping adults improve their literacy. It is the story of a single mother, Eva (aka “Cookie”), a hardworking woman who finds herself facing unemployment when the owner of the local bakery where she works is forced to sell. Money is tight, and with a daughter in college and no promising job prospects in sight, protagonist Eva is just might be possible after all. A wild breath of fresh air for literary Canada. 978-1-896949-65-9 | 225 pages | $22.95 | paper

Linda Rogers

A beautiful body of work, the poet at his finest.

“Everyone is a reader… some just haven’t found their favourite book yet.”

—Anonymous

The Royal BC Museum Spring 2018 Publications Catalogue is available now. Which of our books will become your favourite?

**BY CAROL ANNE SHAW**

**From Scratch**

Gail Anderson-Dargatz’s From Scratch is a recent release from Orca Books’ Rapid Reads Program—a genre of short, high-interest novels penned by bestselling authors with the aim of helping adults improve their literacy. It is the story of a single mother, Eva (aka “Cookie”), a hardworking woman who finds herself facing unemployment when the owner of the local bakery where she works is forced to sell. Money is tight, and with a daughter in college and no promising job prospects in sight, protagonist Eva is just might be possible after all. A wild breath of fresh air for literary Canada. 978-1-896949-65-9 | 225 pages | $22.95 | paper

Linda Rogers

A beautiful body of work, the poet at his finest.

**review**

**Young Adult**

Baker, homemaker, risktaker

A single mom learns how to start her own business and be the best cookie maker in town.

**From Scratch**

Gail Anderson-Dargatz

(Orca Books $9.95)
If you have a heart that enjoys compassion, the audaciousness of King Arthur’s Night’s confounding camaraderie can be thrilling.

Imperfections and sudden detours make for the most memorable moments. King Arthur frequently mentions Richard Gere, Guinevere might mention the movie Titanic. When there’s sexual innuendo, someone might add an impromptu “Get a room!”

The subsidiary characters in Camelot are professional actors on stage to shadow the faltering performances, feeding them lines and improvising in order to keep the show on track.

On opening night, because McNeil’s version of Camelot is modeled on a visit he made to Harrison Hot Springs (one of the songs contains the repeated line: “Go to the Harrison Hot Springs.”), he spontaneously asked his mother in the audience if he was remembering their visit correctly. She called out, yes. And so, this show swerves and veers and bounces its way along; different every night.

There are just two plot points. King Arthur has slept with his sister Morgana and now she wants her son Mordred to get the Holy Grail and claim the crown from his father. McNeil and Marcus Youssef, Guinevere have a platonic love affair that ranks the king.

Prior to a puzzling battle at the production’s belaboured completion, there’s a completely charming comic turn by Andrew Gordon as a soldier slowly twirling his axe in synch with gifted drumming from professional musician Skye Brooks. Their unpre-}

dictable interplay is almost vaudevillian, giving rise to heartfelt audience applause.

Onstage throughout, with only her drummer for company, keyboardist and composer Veda Hille provides a sensitive soundscape that is essential to the wholeness of this undertaking. Arguably the addition of a choir for the PuSh production was unnecessary because the audience can’t grasp McNeil’s incomprehensible lyrics.

If you are a “neurotypical” who is keen on coherence, this play is downright goofy and you’ll want to leave half way through. But if you have a heart that enjoys compassion, the audaciousness of King Arthur’s Night’s confounding camaraderie can be thrilling.

So, is this art or is this social work? To each his own. If you are someone who wants to navigate new pathways for empathy, and you are seeking the deep pleasure of recognizing the dignity and strength that resides in people who are too often invisibilized, King Arthur’s Night is a winner.

It’s not implausible to imagine Canada Council could now proceed to invent a whole new category for Special Needs Theatre.

One patron who left the show furious drew a parallel to the Special Olympics. They’ve held ever four years and who really wants to watch? But neurotypical might watch the Special Olympics if Usain Bolt was included, passing the baton in a relay to sprinters with Down syndrome.

It is the collaborative aspect of Newworld’s production that makes it uplifting and sometimes fascinating. Arguably, a documentary film about putting this production together would be as moving as the actual show. Inspired by the production process for this play, Order of Canada recipient Al Etmanski, a long-time crusader on behalf of people with Down syndrome, including his daughter, has provided a foreword to the published play in which he imagines a better world—a Newworld—for those who are described as developmentally disabled, “in this new world, please look through you. Instead they see you. They see you for your abilities and contributions. What an elusive desire that has been for me as a parent that my daughter might be seen, not seen through. What an elusive experience that has been for people with disabilities. Or anyone who has been marginalized, categorized, and labeled, for that matter.”

“To be seen is to exist: to be recognized for your human- ity and personhood, to have presence and potential, to be an equal in a relationship and not merely the client of a social worker; to be a subject, not an object.”

For those who are not seeking Shakespeare or Lord of the Rings, the words spoken in King Arthur’s Night are a subtext for a deeper level of communication.

King Arthur’s Night is not just therapeutic for four ac- tors and a launch pad for the playwright; it’s the antidote to Etmanski’s frank and chilling contention that “to be an object of pity, servitude, or derision is a horrible existence.”

King Arthur’s Night is an eye-opener. Avoid pity. Make contact.

**THE OTHER PLAY WRITTEN BY NIALL McNEIL and Marcus Youssef, Peter Pantries, is a radical re-imaging of the Peter Pan story in which Peter Pan and Captain Hook (or is he Macbeth?) drink lattes, the Lost Boys hang with detectives from CSI, and Peter desperately wants to have sex with Wendy and make a baby. Sexual exclusion and the denial of full adult- hood are no laughing matters for people whose lives include Down syndrome, but McNeil’s “riffing” style of writing is not without humour.**

Paul Durras reviews for VancouverPlays.

---

**Beyond neurotypicals**

35 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2018

Niial McNeil as King Arthur

**IT’S NOT QUITE STRAVINSKY’S The Rite of Spring. Or Judy Chicago’s Dinner Party. But there is an audaciousness to Newworld Theatre’s production of King Arthur’s Night that made it perfect fare for the recent PuSh Festival, an annual showcase for theatre and dance that pushes the proverbial envelope.**

Now the musical play is being published as King Arthur’s Night and Peter Pantries: A Collaboration across Perceptions of Cognitive Difference by Talonbooks, the Vancouver imprint Canadian playwrights and the audaciousness of the show’s level of communication.

**Niial McNeil** is a winner.

**9781772012033**

**For those who are not seeking Shakespeare or Lord of the Rings, the words spoken in King Arthur’s Night are a subtext for a deeper level of communication.**

**King Arthur’s Night** is an eye-opener. Avoid pity. Make contact.

**THE OTHER PLAY WRITTEN BY NIALL McNeil and Marcus Youssef, Peter Pantries, is a radical re-imaging of the Peter Pan story in which Peter Pan and Captain Hook (or is he Macbeth?) drink lattes, the Lost Boys hang with detectives from CSI, and Peter desperately wants to have sex with Wendy and make a baby. Sexual exclusion and the denial of full adulthood are no laughing matters for people whose lives include Down syndrome, but McNeil’s “riffing” style of writing is not without humour.**

Paul Durras reviews for VancouverPlays.

---

**Beyond neurotypicals**

35 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2018

Niial McNeil as King Arthur

**IT’S NOT QUITE STRAVINSKY’S The Rite of Spring. Or Judy Chicago’s Dinner Party. But there is an audaciousness to Newworld Theatre’s production of King Arthur’s Night that made it perfect fare for the recent PuSh Festival, an annual showcase for theatre and dance that pushes the proverbial envelope.**

Now the musical play is being published as King Arthur’s Night and Peter Pantries: A Collaboration across Perceptions of Cognitive Difference by Talonbooks, the Vancouver imprint Canadian playwrights and the audaciousness of the show’s level of communication.

**Niial McNeil** is a winner.

**9781772012033**

**For those who are not seeking Shakespeare or Lord of the Rings, the words spoken in King Arthur’s Night are a subtext for a deeper level of communication.**

**King Arthur’s Night** is an eye-opener. Avoid pity. Make contact.

**THE OTHER PLAY WRITTEN BY NIALL McNeil and Marcus Youssef, Peter Pantries, is a radical re-imaging of the Peter Pan story in which Peter Pan and Captain Hook (or is he Macbeth?) drink lattes, the Lost Boys hang with detectives from CSI, and Peter desperately wants to have sex with Wendy and make a baby. Sexual exclusion and the denial of full adulthood are no laughing matters for people whose lives include Down syndrome, but McNeil’s “riffing” style of writing is not without humour.**

Paul Durras reviews for VancouverPlays.
Self-Publish.ca

All you need to know about self-publishing

Call for a free consultation
604-929-1725
info@self-publish.ca
The Vancouver Desktop Publishing Centre
4360 Raeburn Street
North Vancouver, BC

HELPING SELF-PUBLISHERS SINCE 1996

Memoir Writing Services

Your life adds up to a story. Tell it.

Now you can hire an experienced writer—
with more than two decades as a full-time freelance writer in Vancouver—to help you:

- Record your life stories through an extensive interviewing process.
- Conduct research to augment your story.
- Write the story with you.
- Manage the book design.
- Provide advice on printing.

For more information contact me at
604-688-1458 • bcramp@shaw.ca
Beverly Cramp

Marlene Schiwy, PhD
Gypsy Fugue: Archetypal Images of the Soul
Sun, March 25 | 11:30am-1pm
Free Talk & Book Signing
at Banyen Books & Sound

We have a huge inventory of FIRST NATIONS titles, plus virtually every local history written in B.C.

This business is now FOR SALE.
The major focus of this business is to provide books and archival materials to Western Canadian First Nations and university, college and regional libraries as well as the public.

Please visit me at 1818 Quebec St. (by appointment only), Vancouver, near Main, near the Olympic Village. Text or email for an appointment davidellis@lightspeed.ca

First Nations Libraries Ltd.

We are proud to be nominated for a Libris award for Bookseller of the Year!

Community-minded but globally connected

BANYEN books & sound
An Independent Bookstore in Vancouver for 48 years!

Open year-round with over 25,000 titles plus great selection of Canadian authors, used books, art supplies, and gifts.

Visit us at www.galianoislandbooks.com
250.539.3340 • leetrentadue@gmail.com
76 Madrona Drive, Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0

Please Join Us for our Annual Literary Festival • www.galianoliteraryfestival.com

A treasure trove for book lovers who make it to the end of the Trans Canada Highway. There's more to Tofino than whales.

Open 7 days a week, year round, until 8pm during summer.

Mermaid Tales Bookshop
455 Campbell St., Tofino, BC • (250) 725-2125
mermaidstales@gmail.com

We are proud to be nominated for a Libris award for Bookseller of the Year!

Marlene Schiwy, PhD
Gypsy Fugue: Archetypal Images of the Soul
Sun, March 25 | 11:30am-1pm
Free Talk & Book Signing
at Banyen Books & Sound

Marlene Schiwy, PhD
Gypsy Fugue: Archetypal Images of the Soul
Sun, March 25 | 11:30am-1pm
Free Talk & Book Signing
at Banyen Books & Sound

3608 West 4th Ave. Vancouver, BC 604-732-7912 banyen.com

We know everyone’s idea of exploring the world is different. That’s why we have an entire room dedicated to travel with books and maps for all points of the globe.

We also have local maps and guides to help you explore your own backyard.

For those who want to see the world from the comfort of your own home, we have shelves of adventure stories for armchair tourists and those resting between travels!

At Beacon & Fourth in Sidney | open 7 days a week 250 656 2345 | tannersbooks.com

Time to explore Booktown in Sidney for a great selection of new and previously loved titles.

in Downtown Sidney, 7 days a week
More info about Sidney’s Booktown at tannersbooks.com

36 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2018
Known to dance on table tops or sleep rough in ditches in Bosnia, Joan Skogan did not suffer fools. She had a radiant obsession with Canada and she loathed cute signs on boats or houses.

Joan Skogan's first book was a collection of nine legends of animals and mythical creatures from the Prince Rupert and Metlakatla area, The Princess and the Sea Bear and other Tsimshian stories (Metlakatla Band Council, 1982). She would write several books for young readers during her career.

She followed her 1983 history of the Skeena River fishery, Skeena: A River Remembered (BC Packers Ltd.) with a memoir of working on foreign ships as a Canadian fisheries observer, during which time she lived aboard three ships beyond the 200-mile limit, mostly unable to communicate with crewmembers who spoke Russian or Polish. Voyages at Sea With Strangers (HarperCollins, 1992), was her attempt to make the leap into the bigtime. Arguably her best book, it was an unprecedent-ed oil spill. Joan Skogan had been on a ship in the area and heard the radio call to the coast guard. Thereafter she could and would recite the distress message she had heard word-for-word.

She corrected people for calling river otters sea otters. She loathed cute signs on boats or houses. She liked to sing the song Barnacle Bill with me but was very disapproving when I named my pink skiff Barnacle Belle. “She brooked no opposition, from friends, editors, or fellow-writers,” recalls journalist Margaret Horsfield, “scorning shoddy thinking, poorly researched history or badly expressed opinions.”

Afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, she became isolated and often angry, but neighbours all liked her and knew in on her. The constants in her house were her books, sculptures and First Nations baskets. Everything was neat like the inside of a boat.

Few people had impartial relations with her, and she shared her love of books. She was not someone who stayed on the sidelines. “The most important thing about Joan,” wrote Barbara Ebbeson, “was that she had a radiant obsession with Canada. She loved this country, every inch of it.”

Joan Skogan died in Nanaimo. Her ashes were spread on the Skeena River.

For Joan Skogan’s complete bibliography visit abcbookworld.com

37 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2018
B.C.'s most successful authors of the 21st century.

SHELLEY ADAMS has done it again. Her fifth cookbook, Whitewater Cooks: More Beautiful Food (Aliceon / Sandhill $34.95), immediately shot to the top of the BC Bestsellers list and stayed there for months. She and her husband Brooker Adams, winner of the 2015 Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry, were in a Cage I'd Reach Out for You (Nightwood Editions $18.95), immediately shot to the top of the BC Bestsellers list and stayed there for months. She and her husband

Shelley Adams creates easy to follow recipes from fresh ingredients that aim to turn home cooks into culinary rock stars in Whitewater Cooks: More Beautiful Food.

WHO'S BRITISH COLUMBIA WHO

A is for Adams

SHELLEY ADAMS has done it again. Her fifth cookbook, Whitewater Cooks: More Beautiful Food (Aliceon / Sandhill $34.95), immediately shot to the top of the BC Bestsellers list and stayed there for months. She and her husband Brooker Adams, winner of the 2015 Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry, were in a Cage I'd Reach Out for You (Nightwood Editions $18.95), immediately shot to the top of the BC Bestsellers list and stayed there for months. She and her husband

B is for Barclay

VANCOUVER POET Adèle Barclay won the 2017 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for her debut collection, I If Were in a Cage I'd Reach Out for You (Nightwood Editions $18.95). Her poems, according to her publisher, “dwell in surreal pockets of the everyday warped landscapes of modern cities and flood into the murky basin of the intimate.” If I Were in a Cage I’d Reach Out for You was also shortlisted for the 2015 Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry.

C is for Carter

SELF-EDITOR FOR OLDER TEENS is hard to come by. In Brooke Carter’s first novel for and about teens, Another Miserable Love Song (Orca 2016), a girl down on her luck looks to form a punk band.

Donna Kane with Spunky who insisted on passing and occasionally biting the other horse on the trek in order to establish pecking order.

E is for Eldon

WHEN THE COLONY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA passed the Indian Graves Ordinance in 1865, it was the first public law to ban grave robbing, making all Indigenous cemeteries in B.C. into government property. It’s one of the facts in Turtle Island: The Story of North America’s First People (Annick Press $16.95), by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger describing how Indigenous peoples lived in North America as far back as fourteen thousand years ago—before Columbus. Primarily based on archaeological finds and scientific research, Turtle Island is for ages eleven and up, with seminal myths opening each chapter. An SFU archaeology professor, Yellowhorn is a member of the Pikiana First Nation.

F is for Friesen

 occasioning using words and phrases from Middle English and Low German, the 86 poems or meditations in Patrick Friesen’s Songen (Mother Tongue $19.95) touch on musical influences, the changes in language over the centuries and on the dissolutions, dilemmas and inevitabilities of old age. Songen is his 18th release, the first to be designed by his daughter Marijke Friesen, and has been praised by George Fetherling as a haunting suite about “the complexity of life inside the words we use to describe ourselves.”

G is for Gough

WRITING IN THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT, Jan Morris has declared Barry Gough’s dual biography about the early 20th century relationship between Winston Churchill and Admiral John Arbuthnot Fisher as “enthralling” and “a work of profound scholarship and interpretation.” Gough has investigated how the two friends clashed over World War One strategies in his 600-page work, which was published by World War One strategies in his 600-page work, which was published by

Theatre Projects Manitoba is staging Patrick Friesen’s previous book A Short History of Crazy Bone (2015).
Humans are left. For all our heroine and her loved ones know, they might be the only survivors of mankind. After seven years of meagre but peaceful co-existence, an outsider on the run shows up and suddenly threatens to destroy the functionality of everything they’ve managed to create. Johnson lives in Kelowna.

978-1-77151-357-4

**K**

**K is for Kurdi**

Descriving herself as a “Nobody Hairdresser” in Coquitlam, Tima Kurdi, the aunt of two-year-old Alan Kurdi—whose death on the tideline in Turkey in 2015 awakened the world to the plight of Syrian refugees—has produced The Boy on the Beach: My Family’s Escape from Syria and Our Hope for a New Home (Simon & Schuster $32). She and her brother Abdullah, Alan’s father, now promote awareness of refugees with the Kurdi Foundation. Her family memoir is due in mid-April.

978-1-9041-753-7

**L**

**L is for Liburn**

TIM LIBURN’S THE LARGER CONVERSATION: Contemplation and Place (U. of Alberta $34.95) continues to trace a relationship between mystic traditions and the political world. He proposes nothing less than “a new epistemology leading to an ecologically responsible and spiritually acute relationship between settler Canadians, Indigenous peoples, and the land we inhabit.” It’s a work of environmental philosophy for those engaged in the process of enhancing conversation between Indigenous peoples and settlers.

978-1-77212-299-2

**M**

**M is for Marlatt**

DAPHNE MARLATT WAS AT THE CENTRE OF the West Coast poetry movement in the 1960s including an association with the TISH group that encouraged her non-conformist approach to language. Four decades of Daphne Marlatt’s poetry has been collected for Intertidal: The Collected Earlier Poems, 1968-2008 (Talonbooks $49.95).

Some of the book’s poems are from Marlatt’s well-known work; others are previously unpublished. Marlatt was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2006 and became the 19th recipient of the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

978-1-77201-178-4

**J**

**J is for Johnson**

TYRREL JOHNSON’S POST-APOCALYPTIC suspense novel, The Wolves of Winter (Simon & Schuster $24.95), set in the Yukon, we are introduced to a fierce young woman named Lynn McBride—think Hunger Games—and the McBride family after the planet has been ravaged by war and disease. Order has collapsed. Nobody knows how many
NELSON IS FAST BECOMING A HUB FOR MYSTERY writers in B.C. Long-time resident JG (Judy) Toews is the latest to make her debut in that genre.

Set in Nelson, her debut novel Give Out Creek (Mosaic Press, $24.95) was shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis Award for best unpublished first crime novel.

Having returned to the small mountain town where she grew up, newspaper reporter Stella Mosconi doesn’t ever mention her crippling fear of deep water. With spring runoff, the alpine creeks are swelling as she watches the level of the lake rising outside her door. When a new friend is found dead in her rowboat, she is drawn into the investigation despite a complicated history with the police officer in charge. She will have to find the courage to overcome her intense fear of water in order to help solve two murders.

JG Toews has also had a career as a nutritionist, and along with Nicole Paton Fisher penned three non-fiction books about healthy living published by Key Porter Books.

DURING THE '20S AND '30S, ON THE NORTH shore of Ootsa Lake, south of Burns Lake, George and Else Seel raised their children near the village of Wistaria. She and her son Rupert remained there until 1952 when Kkenney Dam construction, as part of the Alcan project, raised the level of Ootsa Lake, flooding their property and forcing the evacuation of the Cheslatta First Nation.

Jay Sherwood’s seventh book, Ootsa Lake Odyssey: George and Else Seel: A Pioneer Life on the Headwaters of the Nechako Watershed (Caitlin $24.95), recalls Else’s vanished, mixed community.

MONA FERTIG HAS SOMEWHAT MIRACULOUSLY managed to publish the tenth and final volume of her series The Unheralded Artists of B.C.—Kerry Mason’s extensively illustrated The Life and Art of Arthur Pitts (Mother Tongue $36.95), with a foreword by Daniel Francis. If you haven’t heard of Arthur Pitts (1889-1972), well, that’s sorta the point. The visual arts hierarchy in B.C. was far from a closed shop controlled by a mini, self-elected hierarchy that excluded—among countless others—Fertig’s father.

Pitts attended Westminster School of Art in London in 1920 and the new Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts in 1925, studying under Fred Varley, Charles Scott and J.W.G. Macdonald. In the 1930s he travelled over 4,000 miles sketching and painting—in watercolour—First Nations people and ceremonies.

THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS ACCORDED A GLOWING review to Terese Marie Mailhot’s debut memoir Heart Berries (Doubleday $25) about growing up within the Seabird Island Band in B.C. Good for her. It helps to have an American imprint and a glowing endorsement from her writing instructor, Sherman Aleksie. Meanwhile Karen Charlebois’s debut novel about modern life in a First Nation community atop Vancouver Island, Through Different Eyes (Signature $19.95), is rich in empathy and affords a deep appreciation of community. We hate to quibble, but Charlebois is more worthy of hype.

From Jay Sherwood’s Ootsa Lake Odyssey: A monument outside the Wistaria community hall to celebrate the united colony of British Columbia.
R is for Ruebsaat

Born in Germany in 1946, Norbert Ruebsaat came to Canada in 1952 and grew up in the B.C. interior where he endured schoolyard taunts of "Kraut" and "Hitler boy.

In addition to his poetry collection, Cordillera (Pulp Press, 1979), he was librettist for Barry Truax’s Love Songs and he worked with Hildegard Westerkamp on environmental sound compositions. As a translator, he’s provided English versions of environmental costs.

For example, he translated Hildegard Westerkamp’s Thomas Uphill Amber Ale, declaring, “Beer is as necessary to the worker as milk to the baby... Hands off the workers’ beer!” Wayne Norton, author of Fernie at War: 1914-1919 (Caitlin $24.95), has been campaigning to get a plaque for Uphill installed at the legislature in Victoria.

At Norton’s book launch, at Swan’s Brewpub in Victoria, patrons enjoyed a new beer named Thomas Uphill Amber Ale.

978-1-947115-49-5

U is for Uphill

PREVIOUSLY A MAYOR OF FERNIE, Thomas Uphill was B.C.’s longest serving MLA from 1920-1960. His political career began during British Columbia’s Prohibition. Uphill opposed Prohibition on the grounds it restricted the average worker’s right to enjoy a well-deserved beer at the end of his working day. Uphill famously stood up in the legislature and brandished a bottle of beer, declaring, “Beer is as necessary to the worker as milk to the baby... Hands off the workers’ beer!”

Wayne Norton, author of Fernie at War: 1914-1919 (Caitlin $24.95), has been campaigning to get a plaque for Uphill installed at the legislature in Victoria.

At Norton’s book launch, at Swan’s Brewpub in Victoria, patrons enjoyed a new beer named Thomas Uphill Amber Ale.

978-1-947115-49-5

S is for Shari

SHARI GREEN OF CAMPBELL RIVER has won the ALA Schneider Family Book Award in the Middle School Books category for her middle-grade novel, Mary McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess (Pajama Press $12.95). It’s a free-verse novel that introduces the reader to the gift of cookies. Their relationship helps the elderly neighbour, Iris, learn how to communicate with Macy through sign language, and Macy, in turn, learns how Iris sends messages through the mystical bond.

The collection later came under the care of the Native Indian Teacher Education Resource Centre. The Xwi7xwa (pronounced whi-wha) was B.C.’s longest serving MLA from 1920-1960. His political career began during British Columbia’s Prohibition. Uphill opposed Prohibition on the grounds it restricted the average worker’s right to enjoy a well-deserved beer at the end of his working day. Uphill famously stood up in the legislature and brandished a bottle of beer, declaring, “Beer is as necessary to the worker as milk to the baby... Hands off the workers’ beer!”

Wayne Norton, author of Fernie at War: 1914-1919 (Caitlin $24.95), has been campaigning to get a plaque for Uphill installed at the legislature in Victoria.

At Norton’s book launch, at Swan’s Brewpub in Victoria, patrons enjoyed a new beer named Thomas Uphill Amber Ale.

978-1-947115-49-5

T is for Takach

AS B.C.’S PIPELINE politics become increasingly at odds with Alberta’s economy, Geo Takach, Ph.D., a writer, filmmaker, workshop leader, and, as associate professor of Communication and Culture at Royal Roads University in Victoria, has published Tar Wars: Oil, Environment and Alberta’s Image (U. of Alberta $34.95), an assessment and documentation of how “image-makers” manage the tensions and conflict between the continuous growth mandated by a globalized economic system and its unsustainable environmental costs.

978-1-77212-140-7

W is for Wagstaffe

JOHANNA WAGSTAFFE’S MATERIALIZED GRAND- parents and her mother fled Hungary during the 1956 revolution, lived in a refugee camp in Yugoslavia for a year, then immigrated to a small town in Western Australia, near Meckering, where a 6.9 earthquake struck. Her grandmother recalls the devastation in Fault Lines: Understanding the Power of Earthquakes (Orca $24.95), Wagstaffe’s first book, a lively and well-illustrated primer on earthquakes, is both historical and educational.

978-1-959254-12-7

X is for Xwi7xwa

THE NEW UBC UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, Susan E. Parker, was hired last September. The purview of UBC’s librarianship is vast. As well as poems by数字货币, she’s provided English versions of environmental costs. As a translator, he’s provided English versions of environmental costs.
Feast of Eden BCBW in schools

I want to say thank you to all the readers of BC BookWorld who have helped us in Luhombero. With your donations, we have developed two larger farming projects at Luhombero and Kasita. These will soon be self-sustaining.

To start a new industry for the area, I have graduated from a course taught by Ted Rabenold of AfricanBeeckeeping.com to train African beekeepers, in both English and Swhahili. This course was taught in a rural area outside Ifakara, accessible by ‘zipline’ ferry that enabled us to cross the Little Ruaha River one at a time.

It is inspiring and encouraging for all of us here in a remote place to know funds from your newspaper are now being set aside for the eventual purchase of a vehicle. MIVA, a non-profit organization, has already committed to pay 50% of the purchase and delivery costs. Rome was not built in a day, and Luhombero cannot be uplifted overnight, but we are making progress all the same.

Placid Kindata Luhombero, Tanzania

Lea Watson of Canterbury Books to Westminster, I suggest it be named Surrey, British Columbia,” he wrote. Queen Victoria had named New Westminster, B.C., thus it became known as “the Royal City.” In England, across the Thames from Westminster was the County of Surrey. Thus it struck the clerk as appropriate that across the river from New Westminster there should also be a Surrey.—Ed.

252 Indigenous authors

In the winter BC BookWorld, there was mention that “information pertaining to 252 indigenous authors in British Columbia” is available at the ABCBookWorld reference site. How does that work?

Lisa Ottenbreit, Teacher-Librarian, Windsor Secondary School North Vancouver

[Easy. Choose Advanced Search on the abookyworld.com website; then select Aboriginal Authors.—Ed.]

Gloss gross

I am writing from the beautiful little town of Cumberland on Vancouver Island. I have been an avid reader of BC BookWorld for years. I find it very useful when purchasing new books. I get BC BookWorld at my local library, which is part of the Vancouver Island Regional Library system. Then I buy the books I want to have in my personal library, and borrow others from the library.

BC BookWorld is a great way to find out about new books, otherwise I don’t know how I’d ever find out they exist. I am retired and spend a great deal of my time reading. I don’t like the way it now has a glossy page front and back and more glossy pages in the centre. It adds nothing to the reading experience.

Ellen Rainwalker Cumberland

Send letters or emails to BC BookWorld, 3516 W. 13th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6H 2B3 bookworld@telus.net

Letters may be edited for clarity & length.