

# BC BOOKWORLD

VOL. 32 • NO. 2 • Summer 2018

BC  
BOOK  
PRIZES



Livesay  
Prize winner  
**Mercedes Eng**

FULL COVERAGE  
23-27

**Karen Charleson**  
has been a member through  
marriage of the House of  
Kinquashtakumtith for 40 years,  
resulting in her novel,  
**Through Different Eyes.**

See page 4

Karen and Steve  
Charleson

## KAREN CHARLESON'S **DIFFERENT EYES**



Kevin  
Chong

**FICTION:**  
When the rats  
take over  
Vancouver.

PAGE 37



Maureen  
Medved

**FICTION:**  
Sexual exploitation  
and the machinations  
of power.

PAGE 34



Katherine  
Luo

**MEMOIR:**  
One woman's  
horror during the  
Cultural Revolution.

PAGE 19



PERSEVERANCE



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# Beautiful British Columbia

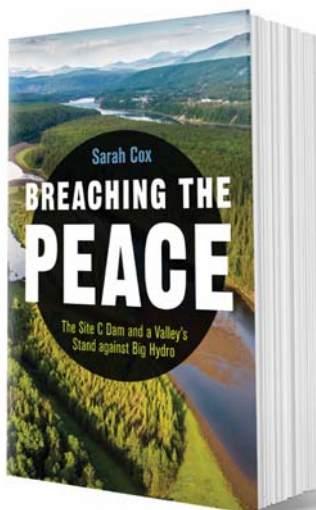
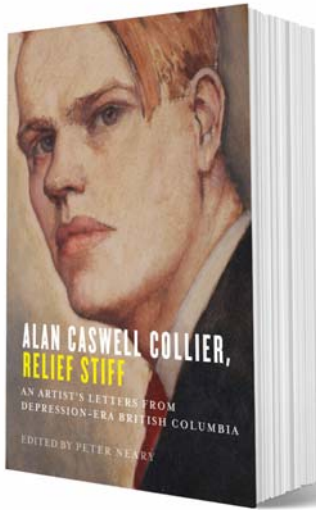
**Alan Caswell Collier, Relief Stiff**

*An Artist's Letters from Depression-Era British Columbia*

**Peter Peter**

Aspiring artist Alan Caswell Collier's letters, sketches, and paintings recall in vivid detail life in Canada's relief camps and the crisis of youth unemployment during the Great Depression.

March 2018 / 89 b&w photos & illus.  
978-0-7748-3498-8 / jacketed hardcover



**Breaching the Peace**

*The Site C Dam and a Valley's Stand against Big Hydro*

**Sarah Cox**

Award-winning journalist Sarah Cox recounts the prolonged battle, led by farmers and First Nations, to stop the crippling expensive and environmentally irresponsible Site C dam.

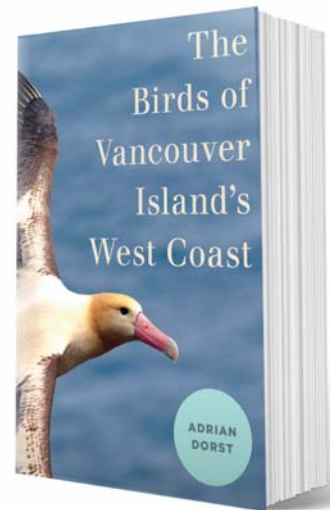
May 2018 / 978-0-7748-9026-7 / paperback

**The Birds of Vancouver Island's West Coast**

**Adrian Dorst**

This regional guide to the 360 species of birds recorded on the wild west coast of Vancouver Island will inform, delight, and surprise amateur and professional birders alike.

April 2018 / 130 b&w photos  
978-0-7748-9010-6 / jacketed hardcover



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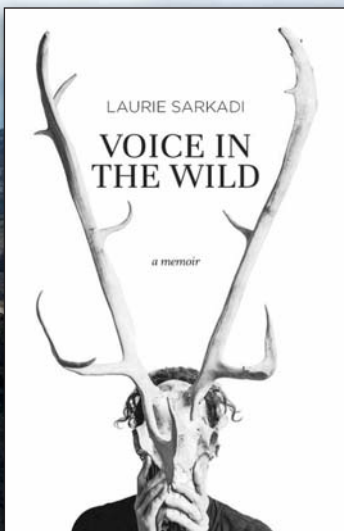
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*thought that counts*



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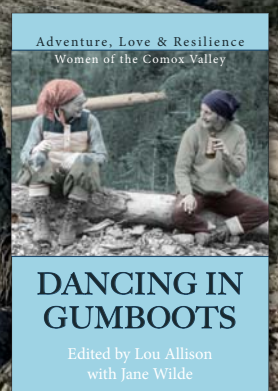
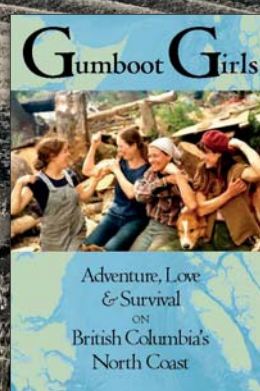
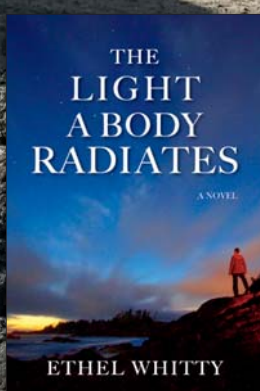
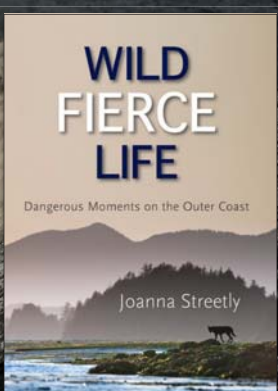
WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

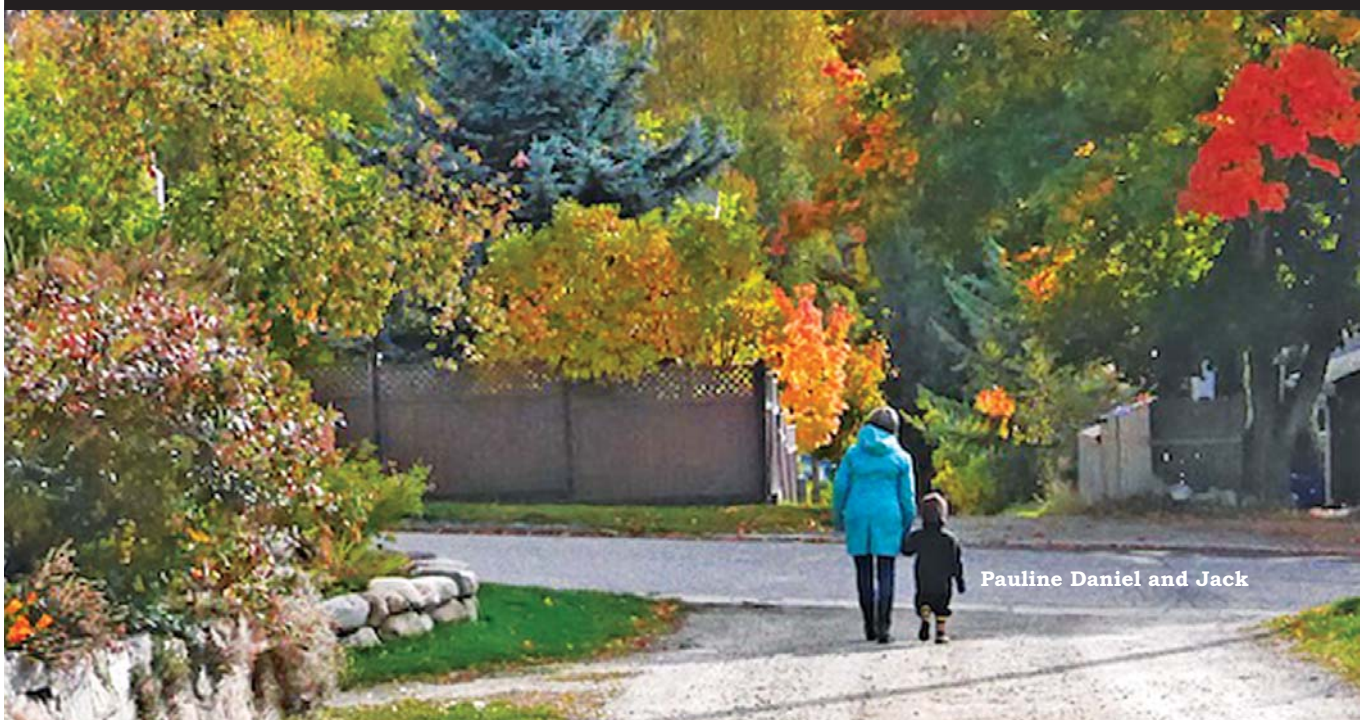


GREAT SUMMER READS

COMING IN  
FALL 2018







Pauline Daniel and Jack

- Andrew Struthers**  
**The Sacred Herb / The Devil’s Weed**  
(New Star \$19)
- Shelley Adams**  
**Whitewater Cooks: More Beautiful Food**  
(Sandhill Book Marketing \$34.95)
- Angela Crocker**  
**Declutter Your Data:  
Take Charge of Your Data  
and Organize Your Digital Life**  
(Self-Counsel Press \$16.95)
- Monique Gray Smith**  
**Speaking Our Truth:  
A Journey of Reconciliation**  
(Orca Books \$29.95)



Amber Dawn

- Amber Dawn**  
**Sodom Road Exit**  
(Arsenal Pulp Press \$21.95)
- Robert Amos**  
**E. J. Hughes Paints Vancouver Island**  
(TouchWood \$35)
- Sarah Cox**  
**Breaching the Peace:  
The Site C Dam and a Valley’s  
Stand against Big Hydro**  
(UBC Press \$24.95)
- Maureen Medved**  
**Black Star**  
(Anvil Press \$20)
- Theo Dombrowski**  
**Popular Day Hikes 4: Vancouver Island**  
(Heritage House \$15)
- Joel Solomon**  
**The Clean Money Revolution**  
(New Society \$29.99)
- Joanna Streetly**  
**Wild Fierce Life:  
Dangerous Moments on  
the Outer Coast**  
(Caitlin Press \$22.95)
- Richard Wagamese**  
**Indian Horse**  
(D&M \$21.95)
- Rod Mickleburgh**  
**On the Line: A History of the  
British Columbia Labour Movement**  
(Harbour \$44.95)
- Deni Ellis B  chard  
& Natasha Kanap   Fontaine**  
**Kuei, My Friend: A Conversation on  
Race and Reconciliation**  
(Talonbooks \$19.95)
- David Starr**  
**The King’s Shilling**  
(Ronsdale Press \$11.95)



David Starr

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

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

**P**AULINE DANIEL WAS always impatient to hold her grandson Jack. “I asked too often and probably came on too strong,” she writes in **Tuesdays with Jack** (Granville Island \$18.95).

She wanted to be with him more than with his parents. But the other grandmother had come all the way from England to help her daughter. Eventually her son and daughter-in-law agreed that Daniel could babysit one day a week.

She began spending Tuesdays with Jack when he was still an infant.

In her memoir, *Tuesdays with Jack*, Daniel recalls how this routine continued as he entered kindergarten. It was around this time that she began Facebooking her friends, sharing funny or wise things her grandson had done and said, even when he was too honest.

“How strong are your muscles, Buba?” he asked.

She proudly flexed her bicep. “What’s that floppy bit?”

As she is getting her grandson ready

## Tuesday’s anti-aging formula

to go home, he dawdles, so she tells him it’s time to clean up. “I can hear,” he says, “but I’m not listening.”

Jack was very observant at age five, with no filter. He often examined his Buba closely, noticing her face, her words, and her laughter.

“Buba, you look old.”

“Old?” she replied. “No, I think I’m beautiful.”

“Yes, you’re beautiful, Buba,” he said, “but you look old.”



DANIEL DISCOVERED SHE WAS SPENDING “quality time” with Jack in a way that she hadn’t done with her son.

Freed from the anxiety of constant parenting, she felt as if her appreciation

of precious moments was heightened.

One Tuesday evening, Jack’s parents sent him a selfie and let him know they were on the way to get him. He kissed the phone.

Eventually Jack notices his Buba is writing down things. “Are you going to write a book about all the funny things I say, Buba?”

“Well, who would read it?” she says.

“Oh, just anybody. I’ll sell them at my lemonade stand.”

Buba’s Facebook readers told her she should consider following Jack’s advice.

The result is modest but true reflections from an observant grandmother who happens to live in the Kootenays.

Of course, there are billions of grandmothers—and probably more than a few grandfathers—who might have considered a similar memoir.

But, as Daniel will be the first to tell you, there is only one Jack.

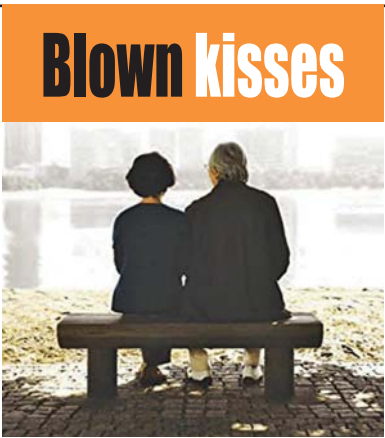
Now the unexpected bonus of grandparenting—when she feels free, totally present and having fun—has motivated Daniel to share *Tuesdays with Jack* at lemonade stands and beyond.

“Grandparenting,” she says, “is an anti-aging formula.” 978-1-9269918-18-2-5

**I**n his memoir, **Neither Married nor Single: When Your Partner has Alzheimer’s or Other Dementia** (Brush Educational \$16.95) West Vancouver psychotherapist **David Kirkpatrick** describes how his marital relationship was affected by his wife’s illness.

As well, he shares intimate stories from other husbands and wives about dealing with partners stricken by Alzheimer’s.

Graham, one of his patients (whose wife Yvonne had the disease) told him, “I hadn’t slept in the same bedroom with Yvonne for many years... right from the time she woke up in the night and turned over and said, ‘Who the hell are you?’ and I said, ‘It’s just me, Yvonne. It’s Graham.’ ‘Get out of my house!’ And I said, ‘Well, I’ll just go in the other room, Yvonne.’ The patient abandoned the idea of ever again sleeping in



to Claire, too.” Romance eventually disappeared but he continued his visits.

David Kirkpatrick has practiced as a psychotherapist and psychiatrist in Ashland, Oregon and Vancouver. He published a previous memoir, *In Praise of Strong Women: A Psychiatrist’s Memoir*. 978-1-550597-28-8



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# return OF THE NATIVE

Set on Northern Vancouver Island, **Through Different Eyes** is a moving and memorable novel that is fueled by compassion and wisdom.

**Through Different Eyes**  
by Karen Charleson  
(Signature \$19.95)

**I**N 1901, GOVERNOR **JAMES Douglas's** multi-talented daughter **Martha Douglas Harris** published *History and Folklore of the Cowichan Indians*. Her grandmother was Cree.

Ten years later **Pauline Johnson** came along and published *Legends of Vancouver*—stories that should have been co-credited to **Mary Capilano** (Lixwelut) and Chief **Joe Capilano** (Su-a-pu-luck).

The breakthrough novel about First Nations people in Canada was **Hubert Evans'** remarkable *Mist on the River* in 1954, set in the Kispiox area and Prince Rupert. Evans and his wife, both Quakers, had lived for years as the only whites among the people he was writing about. All the Indigenous main characters are sympathetically and realistically portrayed.

Conversely, **Margaret Cra-ven's** knowledge was superficial for her 1967 novel, *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*, set in remote Kingcombe Inlet, but the story resonated as a breakthrough movie in 1973, attempting to depict First Nations culture. Based on a true story, a missionary chooses to die in Kingcombe Village. He increasingly realizes the sophistication of Kwakwaka'wakw society during its disintegration due mainly to liquor and residential schools.

More realistic depictions of life within First Nations communities have followed—including fiction by **Lee Maracle** and **Jeannette Armstrong**, plus **George Ryga's** landmark play *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. There are now more than 256 Indigenous B.C. authors included on the ABCBookWorld reference site.

Now comes one of the best 21st century novels about B.C. Indigenous life, **Karen Charleson's** hitherto unheralded **Through Different Eyes**, depicting village life atop Vancouver Island in the mid-1980s.

Set in the fictitious towns of remote Kitsum and Port Hope (population 1,000), this story mainly depicts the emotional lives of women in the Joe family, beset by two unplanned pregnancies.

"I was tired of trying to 'explain' to people what life was like on the West Coast in a small native community," says Charleson. "I thought I might be able to show people something of the wealth of family and community that lives here."

The author has lived in Hesquiaht territories for over 40 years. A mother of six, as well as a grandmother, she operates Hooksum Outdoor School with her husband, **Sean**, near Tofino.

"No one locally seems to have any problem with *Through Different Eyes*, Charlson told *BC BookWorld*. "In fact, I can't help but feel humbled and honoured by the numbers of local people who are buying, reading and saying good things about the book. By local, I am talking about all the areas of Vancouver Island where Nuu-chah-nulth people live."

EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE'S business in Kitsum. It's hard for sixteen-year-old Brenda Joe to keep her pregnancy secret, but she can at least withhold the identity of the father. Before she can undertake the arduous trip to Campbell River to give birth, her favourite aunt, Monica, comes for Christmas.

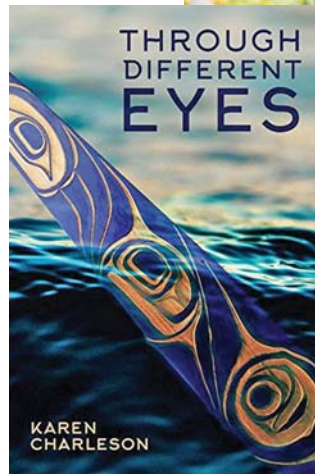
University-educated and beautiful, Monica, 27, was the star pupil at Kitsum Elementary when it opened in 1967. Eight years later when the forest company made a road connecting Kitsum to Port Hope, Monica was able to attend high school an hour from her home.

Monica got out. She climbed the social ladder of Vancouver. She became exotic arm-candy for her white partner, Saul, who considered himself to be one of the few anthropologists who truly understood Native peoples. Saul wants them to move to Ottawa.

But Monica decides to ditch Saul, quit her office job at Indian Affairs, and return



KAREN CHARLESON PHOTO



**For over 40 years, Karen Charleson has been a member through marriage of the House of Kinquashtakumtlth.**

to her humble Kitsum roots, taking a low-paying job at the local school in order to help her sister, Ruby Joe, look after her daughter Brenda. Monica and Ruby have been especially close ever since they lost both parents in a car accident on the treacherous road to Port Hope.

Charleson's classic **Thomas Hardy**esque "return of the native" scenario has very unexpected consequences. After

Brenda confides to Monica that the father of her out-of-wedlock child—unbeknownst to him—is the handsome loner Michael Clydesdale from the raucously partying Clydesdale family, Monica takes it upon herself to confront him.

To divulge more is to say too much. Published by Signature, an imprint in Winnipeg, Charleson credits six months working with an editor, West Coast poet **Garry Thomas Morse**, for bringing her novel to fruition.

"The writing is flawless," critic **David Stouck** has re-

sponded, "and the storyline smoothly paced. Despite its somewhat dated aspects, Charleson does a beautiful job of constructing this narrative to render sympathetically a story she has observed closely."

Charleson succeeds in making the reader care about every individual she portrays. This story of dignity and perseverance rings true on every page by continuously conveying how people feel. Cumulatively, it stands as a testament to how it's the women in Kitsum who preserve and foster community.

★  
KAREN CHARLESON HAS PUBLISHED three science textbooks with McGraw-Hill Ryerson and has had numerous articles and essays appear in such diverse publications as *Canadian Geographic*, *The Globe and Mail*, the *Vancouver Sun*, and *Canadian Literature*. Karen holds an MA in Integrated Studies from Athabasca University.

"I am fully expecting to get some kind of flak at some point about writing about Indigenous people and communities without being Indigenous myself," says Charleson. "I'd like to say that I am ready for that attitude or argument, but I will deal with it when it comes. I am confident in what I know, and confident as a member of my own family, so I will be fine."

★  
IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLESON in November 2017, in *Ha-Shilth-Sa* (Canada's oldest First Nations Paper, published in Port Alberni by the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council), reporter **Shayne Morrow** asked Charleson about the genesis of *Through Different Eyes*.

"I was thinking of two very concrete things as I wrote the novel," she said. "One, I wanted to tell a positive story about 'ordinary' daily life as it is lived by the people who have known this area as home for countless generations here on the West Coast.

"The other was to show the enduring strength and central importance of family. I do not specifically name Nuu-chah-nulth or any First Nation in the novel, but I think that anyone who reads it will easily be able to recognize Nuu-chah-nulth attitudes, perspectives, and ways of doing things in the community and family."

There are now more than 2,000 books pertaining to Indigenous cultures of B.C. on the ABCBookWorld public reference site. Although it's a debut novel, *Through Different Eyes* easily ranks among the best.

978-1-77324-006-0



# Let's dive in!



9781459813212

*"Evokes a poignancy as deep as the sea."*  
—Kit Pearson, author



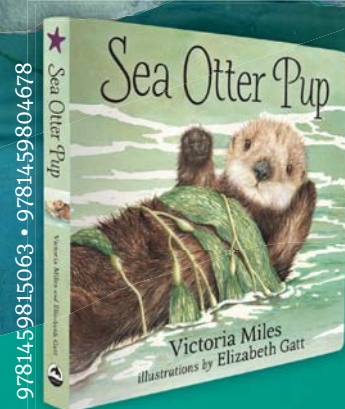
9781459809543

★ *"Enchanting, engaging, and restful."*  
—Publishers Weekly starred review



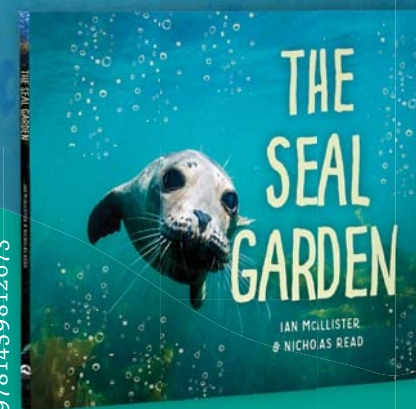
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*"The warm excitement of discovering nature."*  
—Resource Links



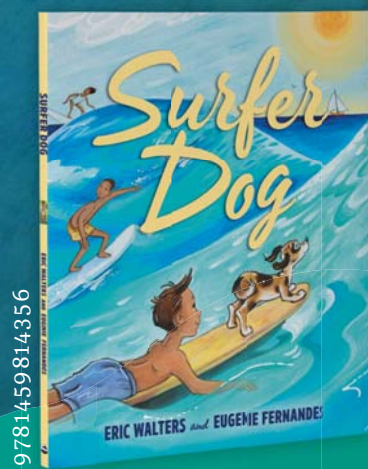
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*"Reminds you of the rhythm of the waves of the Pacific Ocean."*  
—Eco Parent



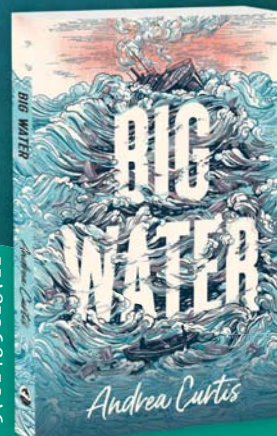
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*"Compelling."*  
—Publishers Weekly



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—CM Magazine



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—Quill & Quire



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*"Nature never goes out of style."*  
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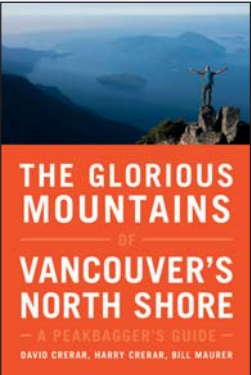
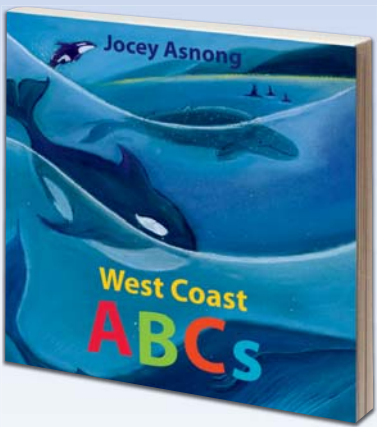
# Summertime and the reading is breezy.

## West Coast ABCs

Jocey Asnong

Ahoy, away we go! Join bestselling children's book illustrator Jocey Asnong on another colourful journey as she highlights the West Coast region of Canada in this playful alphabet book.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$12 bb



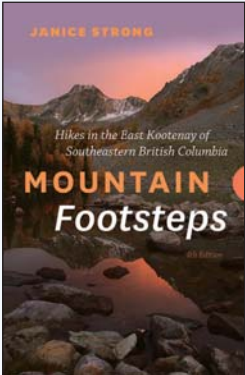
### The Glorious Mountains of Vancouver's North Shore

A Peakbagger's Guide

David Crerar, Harry Crerar, Bill Maurer

A new full-colour guidebook for outdoor enthusiasts interested in exploring the dynamic and inspiring peaks and trails of the coast-mountain landscape.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$40 pb



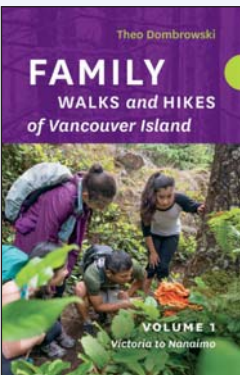
### Mountain Footsteps

Hikes in the East Kootenay of Southeastern British Columbia – 4th Edition

Janice Strong

This completely revised and updated edition includes enhanced colour maps and beautiful photos which will breathe new life into the outdoor experience.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$30 pb



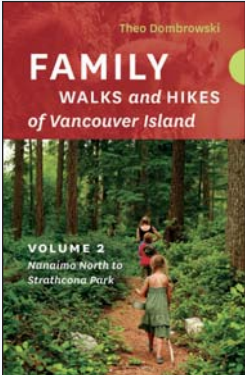
### Family Walks and Hikes of Vancouver Island

Volume 1: Victoria to Nanaimo

Theo Dombrowski

The first book in this new series assembles an impressive variety of walks and hikes for visitors and locals looking for unique, guided wanderings between Victoria and Nanaimo.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$20 pb



### Family Walks and Hikes of Vancouver Island

Volume 2: Nanaimo North to Strathcona Park

Theo Dombrowski

The second book in this highly anticipated new series features guided wanderings for all abilities in the area between northern Nanaimo and Strathcona Park.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$20 pb



### It Begins in Betrayal

A Lane Winslow Mystery (#4)

Iona Whishaw

"Relentlessly exciting from start to finish."  
—Kirkus Reviews

When Inspector Darling is arrested in London and facing the hangman, Lane Winslow rushes back to England to save him. Back in Nelson, Constable Ames chases down a murderer in Nelson.

TouchWood Editions | \$16.95 pb | \$7.99 epub

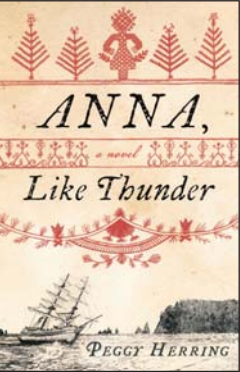


### One Good Thing

Rebecca Hendry

Spring, 1977. Twelve-year-old Delilah moves with her mother to eclectic Old Town, Yellowknife to be reunited with her father. Unhappy at first, she is surprised to find that her new community offers a sense of belonging she's never felt. Great read for teens and adults.

Brindle & Glass | \$22 pb | \$9.99 epub

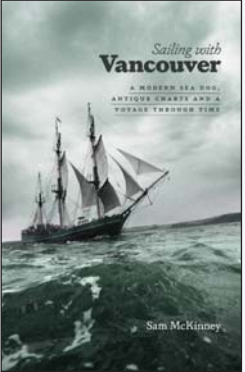


### Anna, Like Thunder

Peggy Herring

When the Russian trading ship carrying young Anna Petrovna Bulygina runs aground off the PNW coast, she is taken hostage by the Quileute. A historical novel based on the incredible true story of a woman who, after living amongst local Indigenous peoples for a year, refused to be "rescued."

Brindle & Glass | \$22 pb | \$9.99 epub



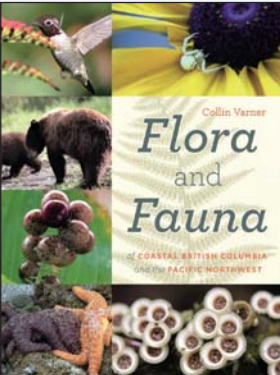
### Sailing with Vancouver

A Modern Sea Dog, Antique Charts and a Voyage Through Time

Sam McKinney

In the 1790s Captain George Vancouver and his crew charted the intricate coastline of BC. In this classic travelogue, Sam McKinney retraces Vancouver's voyages from Puget Sound to Haida Gwaii in his sailboat 200 years later.

TouchWood Editions | \$20 pb | \$8.99

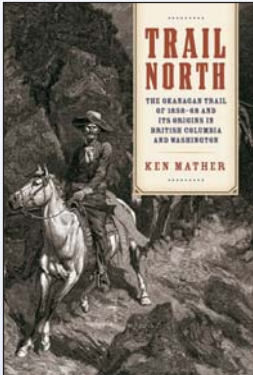


### The Flora and Fauna of Coastal British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest

Collin Varner

Comprehensive and easy to use, with a beautiful design and stunning photography, this is a must-have guide for nature enthusiasts interested in the ecosystems of the Cascadia region.

Heritage House | \$39.95 pb



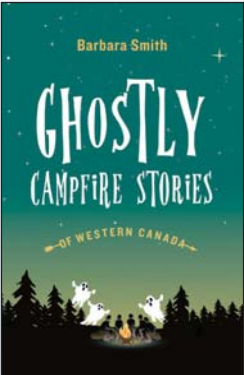
### Trail North

The Okanagan Trail of 1858-68 and Its Origins in British Columbia and Washington

Ken Mather

The historic stretch of Highway 97 linking Brewster, WA, to Kamloops, BC, is profiled in this fascinating study of one of the northwest region's oldest transportation routes.

Heritage House | \$22.95 pb | \$17.99 ebook

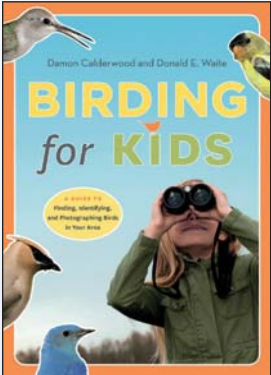


### Ghostly Campfire Stories of Western Canada

Barbara Smith

Readers will delight in these bone-chilling tales gathered from true accounts and unexplained happenings in the Canadian West. Perfect for family camping trips or quiet nights at home.

Heritage House | \$12.95 pb | \$9.99 ebook



### Birding for Kids

A Guide to Finding, Identifying, and Photographing Birds in Your Area

Damon Calderwood and Donald E. Waite

This action-packed guide teaches kids the fun, safe, and educational way to observe birds in their natural habitat. Includes project ideas, species lists, and a glossary of bird terms.

Heritage House | \$14.95 pb



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**Best Places to Bird in British Columbia** by Russell Cannings and Richard Cannings (Greystone Books \$22.95)

BY BRIONY PENN

IF YOU ARE NEW TO BIRDING and want a guide for exploring the hot birding spots of B.C., then *Best Places to Bird in British Columbia*—with some slight reservations—is your book.

Not surprising, given that the primary author is listed as **Russell Cannings**, third generation of the famous Cannings naturalist family from the Okanagan. Co-author is Russell’s dad **Richard (Dick) Cannings**—pretty busy these days in Ottawa as Member of Parliament for South Okanagan-West Kootenay, advocating for protection of further nature areas across the country.

I couldn’t find much fault with the selection of the top thirty best places to bird in British Columbia.

The sites are distributed geographically so that they catch both the most accessible southern hotspots (where most readers live) and representatives of the northern ecological regions.

Locations and routes are laid out clearly for car travel and all—other than Triangle Island, which is off limits to just about everyone—can be reached easily by roads with some gentle degrees of hiking, like Cathedral Provincial Park, south of Princeton and Keremeos.

Cannings and Cannings confess their personal bias for Okanagan

sites since they are long-term grassland dwellers, hailing originally from a Penticton orchard, but their choice is justified because these critical transition zones include birds from both southern and northern ranges.

Naturalist and geographer **Briony Penn** reviews **Best Places to Bird** which highlights 275 B.C. bird species—more than half of B.C.’s species—viewable from thirty locations.



(and maybe even an albatross), and enter sheltered channels off Fitz Hugh Sound, where you can stop off at places like Hakai Protected Area.

In a day, you can view birds on exposed white sandy beaches, sheltered lagoons, rocky shorelines, river estuaries, and upland bogs. Add in a night in Waglisla (Bella Bella), Klemtu, or Hartley Bay, and you can observe some phenomenal congregations of migrating and nesting birds—the coastal sandhill cranes calling from their nesting sites

close to the ferry terminal in Bella Bella, for a start—while supporting local Indigenous ecotourism.

I would have substituted Hakai for Triangle Island, if for no other reason than the \$6,000 price tag to charter a boat to get to spectacular Triangle is a little unrealistic.

★  
*BEST PLACES TO BIRD IN BRITISH Columbia* is billed as featuring “local experts, insider knowledge and specialty birds,” and that is what it delivers in an old school “birder” approach. As with all the Cannings’ family books, the natural history accounts are based on deep and long-term relationships with the birds and the landscape.

I counted up the number of species in the excellent index at around 275, which means that at these thirty spots you can see well over half of B.C.’s birds with a high degree of reliability and, with a few exceptions, from easy places to access.

The 2011 checklist of B.C. birds is at 506, but that figure includes all recognized subspecies and all exotics with established breeding populations. To spot them would require some expert sleuthing of this province in remote areas.

One small question I had concerned authorship. The book has two authors, but I wasn’t always clear who was writing—Cannings Senior or Junior. The context sometimes answered the question, but it felt more like Senior than Junior.

And, as I reflected on the many road trips required, I had one recurring concern. If the *Best Places to Bird in British Columbia* is to attract beginners, it isn’t going to work for the non-car-owning millennials. The millennials I know are going to be a little suspicious of conservationists incongruously charging around in fossil-fuelled cars to tick off birds without considering their own impact on these same birds from a climate change perspective. A short discussion of automobile impact could easily have gone in the Bird Ethics section.

Personally, I would love to hear more from millennial birders sharing their passion for the diversity of birds in B.C. through a twenty-first century lens. How are we going to keep the connection to our fellow avian cousins within a sharing economy and a fossil-fuel free world? This might be the subject for another book.

If anyone is up to that challenge, it is the Cannings family. 9781771641661

# HOT birding spots



Tufted Puffins forage offshore and nest on remote islands.

Briony Penn’s *The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan* won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize in 2016. She lives on Salt Spring Island.



R. Wayne Campbell locates a Black Oystercatch nest with two eggs on Arbutus Island.

## Tracking the Rhinoceros Auklet and five other seabirds

We now know that seabirds account for less than 6% of the 316 species of birds in B.C. There are more than 5.6 million seabirds nesting in 542 colonies in B.C.

• Five species account for 97% of breeding seabirds in B.C. They are the Fork-tailed storm-petrel, Leach’s storm-petrel, Ancient Murrelet, Cassin’s Auklet and Rhinoceros Auklet.

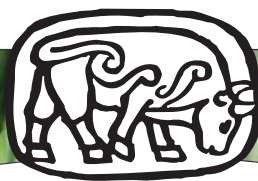
• About 22% of all breeding B.C. seabirds are found on Triangle Island.

• Six seabird species nest in old growth forests; the most threatened species of which is the Marbled Murrelet.

This info is all lovingly and extensively provided in **Seabird Colonies of British Columbia: A Century of Changes** (Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies \$40) by a trio of authors with 127 years of combined seabird experience: **Michael S. Rodway, R. Wayne Campbell and Moira J.F. Lemon.**

www.wildlifebc.org





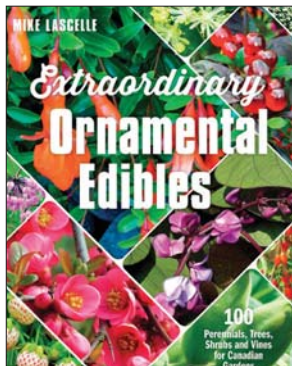
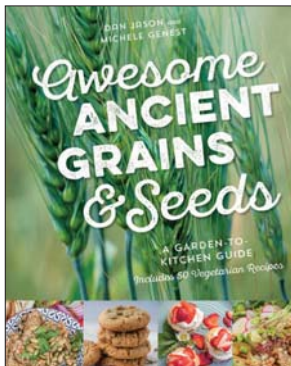
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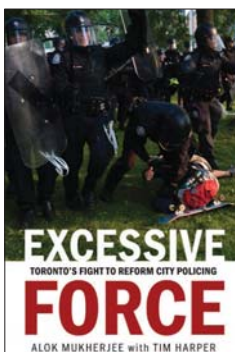


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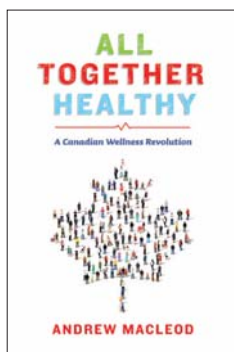
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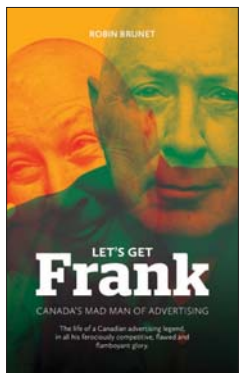
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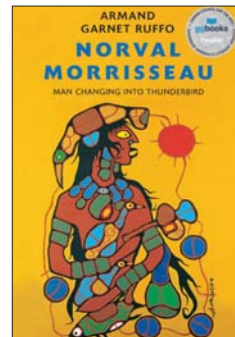


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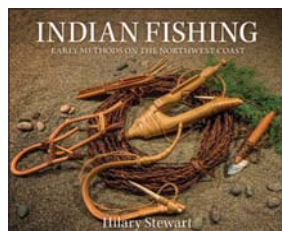
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**Breaching the Peace: The Site C Dam and a Valley's Stand against Big Hydro by Sarah Cox** (UBC Press \$24.95)

BY JOHN GELLARD

**B**REACHING THE Peace by Sarah Cox is an important book about the Site C Dam.

That title yields a cascade of kaleidoscopic connotations—insights into this complex history of a river being broken up, of communities being divided, of ‘breach of the peace’ lawsuits, and of byzantine machinations by BC Hydro.

The Peace River rises in the Rocky Mountain Trench in northern British Columbia, 58 degrees north latitude, trending south, it drains a watershed the size of Ireland.

50 km west of Hudson’s Hope, the river turns east through the Peace Canyon, a migration route as old as the dinosaurs. At Hudson’s Hope the canyon opens into a wide alluvial valley stretching 83 km to Fort St John, then on into Alberta, ending at the Athabasca Delta.

At Fort St John, the 1100 megawatt Site C Dam is being built. The price is the flooding of thousands of hectares of rich bottom land. The reservoir would stretch back to Hudson’s Hope.

★ THE CONTROVERSIAL SITE C DAM must be seen against a background of previous “breaches” of the Peace, where the river has been converted from a life supporting ecosystem into a machine.

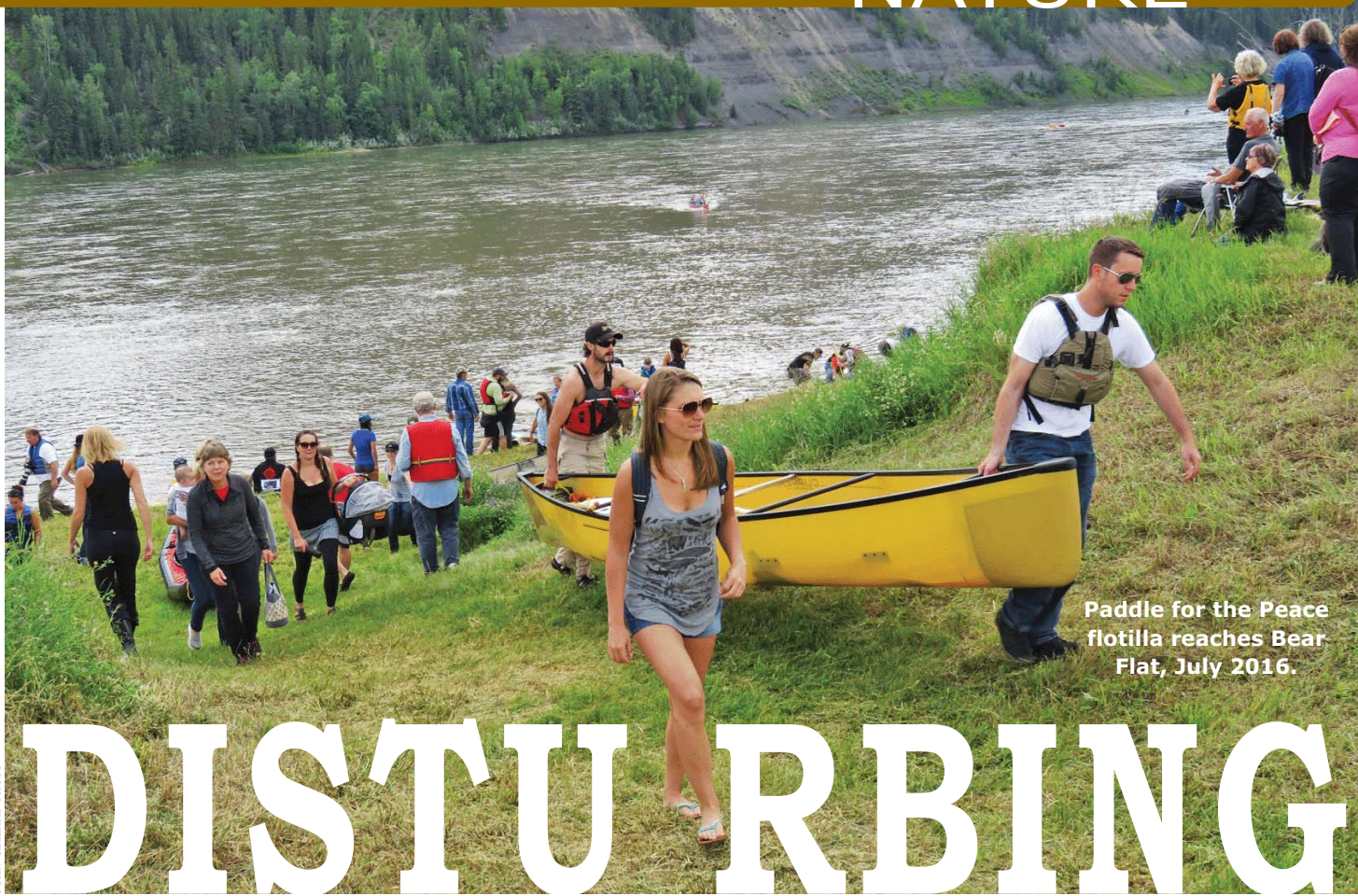
The first “breach,” near Hudson’s Hope, is the 3,000 megawatt WAC Bennett Dam. A sterile reservoir has replaced a living river system.

Cox writes, “The lattice of rivers and forests ...had been of a wild, dizzying beauty... Rivers like the Finlay and the Parsnip were used as highways ...When the Bennett Dam opened up [in 1968]... some people had to flee so quickly that they lost [everything]”

“Oh it was beautiful,” says Elizabeth, West Moberly First Nations. “A nice big wide valley. Big beautiful timber... You could run for miles. Lots of animals... Now there’s nothing.”

The Bennett Dam is there to generate electricity, but does Williston Lake not provide some benefits? Fishing? Afraid not. The bull trout, full of methyl mercury, are unfit to eat. The caribou are almost extirpated. The West Moberly and the Saulteau First Nations have a captive breeding program. The diseased moose are disappearing. The Tsay Keh Dene who live by the “lake” still do not have hydro power.

The Williston reservoir is not much good for recreation



Paddle for the Peace flotilla reaches Bear Flat, July 2016.

# DISTURBING the PEACE

Site C has been controversial ever since it was announced in 2010. **Sarah Cox** has examined why.

because of debris and sloughing banks.

20 km downstream is the 700 megawatt Peace Canyon Dam holding back “Dinosaur Lake.” Dinosaur remains are 50 metres under water.

Then the valley widens into a “Garden of Eden.” The river meanders between banks of alluvial Class 1 topsoil. Farms on the north bank facing the sun could produce fruit and vegetables to feed a million people. On the slopes, Class 2-5 soils yield hay. It’s 83 km to Fort St John where the 60 metre Site C Dam will rise to drown 100 km of valley if you include the Moberly and Half-way Rivers.

The farmland is not being fully developed because farmers threatened by flooding have hesitated to make the investment.

★ **KEN AND ARLENE BOON’S FARM** AT Bear Flat is well developed. Arlene’s grandfather built their house. Highway 29 from Fort St John curves downhill around the farm and separates the alluvial bottom land from the slope. The highway is being rerouted by Hydro through the farmhouse site. There is constant noise from drilling by “The landlord from Hell.” Resisters are carrying on a “yellow stakes” fundraising campaign.

Other convoluted dealings between the Boons and Hydro included expropriation and an eviction notice for Christmas, 2016, then a reprieve and a lease-back deal. Some farmers proposed bargaining collectively in land sales. Hydro’s refusal is seen as a “divide and

conquer” tactic.

The farms have a symbiotic relationship with the wild land. The forests are hunting grounds especially for First Nations. Forested islands allow ungulates to breed and migrate out of reach of predators. The fish are still fit to eat.

Just upstream from the Boons’ place is Watson Slough, a 20 hectare wetland called “one of the world’s birding hotspots” with 130 nesting bird species including trumpeter swans, as well as rare “outlier” plant species. Hydro began to clear cut here, but was persuaded to leave Watson Slough alone.

★ A Tufa seep is a ‘magical’ phenomenon whereby mineral laden water seeps over long distances and emerges to create unique mineral formations that support rare plants and animals. About seven tufa seeps will be lost.

Rocky Mountain Fort (RMF) is on the south bank, by the Moberly River, just upstream from the dam site. The Pedersens’ farm high on the north bank has an excellent view of it. You can see the machines working and

get a glimpse of the landslides—“tension cracks”—that could well drive the cost over the current \$12 billion. In 1793, **Alexander Mackenzie** noted an abundance of bison and wildlife here. Hydro has clear cut the area for a rock debris dump. On New Year’s Eve, 2015, Ken Boon and others occupied RMF and were visited by **David Suzuki** and Grand Chief **Stewart Phillip**. Hydro hit the occupiers with a \$420 million SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suit for this ‘breach of the peace’.

★ SARAH COX DESCRIBES THE HEROISM of dozens of Peace supporters. A perfect symbol is a life-size inflatable white elephant seen on the canvassing circuit. **Marc Eliesen**, head of BC Hydro in the 1990s, said, “Site C is dead.” He called it a “white elephant.”

It’s all very well to oppose Site C, but the main question must be answered. Where else are we going to get the 1,100 megawatts to “keep the lights on” as **Christy Clark** said, pushing the project to “the point of no return”? Cox provides answers:

**First:** Demand for power in B.C. is flat. Site C power, worth \$30 a megawatt/hour on the spot market, may cost \$100 a megawatt/hour to produce.

**Second:** The cost of solar power is decreasing but the government is not encouraging development.

**Third:** B.C.’s total wind capacity is 16,000 megawatts. The Meikle project near Dawson Creek can power 54,000 homes.

**Fourth:** B.C.’s potential geothermal capacity is 5,500 megawatts.

**Fifth:** Unused downstream benefits from the Columbia River Treaty would equal Site C capacity. For that we flooded the Arrow Lakes.

**Sixth:** There is room for additional turbines in the Revelstoke and Mica Dams.

**Seventh:** There’s the standby Burrard Thermal Generating Plant in Port Moody: 950 megawatts.

**Eighth:** Consider ‘pumped storage.’ Pump the water up when demand is low, and use the power when demand is high.

Why not pursue these alternatives? The focus has shifted to Site C. After the BCUC report, why has the new NDP government chosen Site C?

Former Hydro head, Marc Eliesen said, “[after the BCUC report]...no sensible rational person could take any other decision than to terminate Site C... a slam dunk.”

Hope springs eternal. “I’m planting a garden and ordering seeds,” said Arlene Boon.

“Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more.”

—**Shakespeare**, Henry V.  
9780774890267

John Gellard’s articles have appeared in *The Globe & Mail* and *The Watershed Sentinel*.



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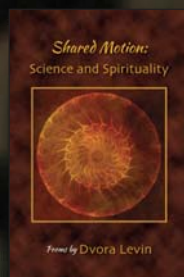
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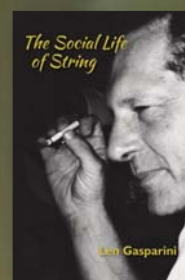
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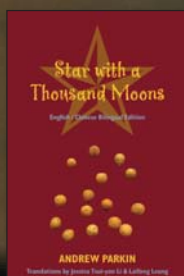
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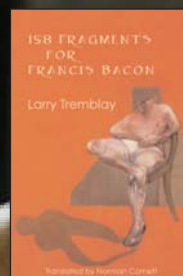
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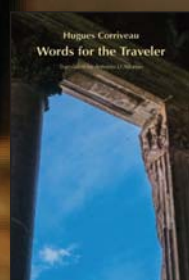
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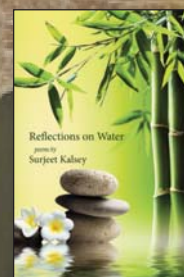
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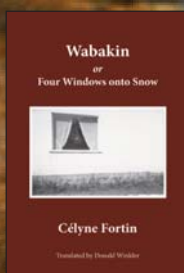
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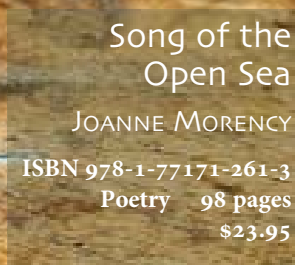
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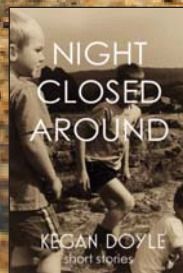
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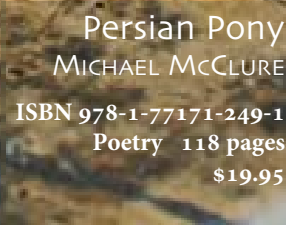
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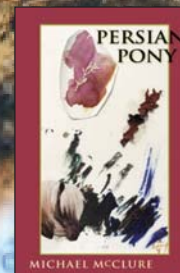
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**Listening to the Bees**  
by Mark L. Winston &  
Renée Sarojini Saklikar  
(Nightwood Editions \$22.95)

BY MARY ANN MOORE

**M**ARK L. WINSTON, one of the world's leading experts on bees and pollination, writes in one of his essays:

"Science with its reliance on data and objectivity, may seem the least poetic of professions, but scientists and poets have at least one thing in common: we share a love of words and exploration."

Winston's extensive research includes graduate studies at the University of Kansas where he analyzed the mouthparts ("labiomaxillary complex") of long-tongued bees.

Now Winston and **Renée Sarojini Saklikar**, poet laureate for the City of Surrey, have created a "call-and-response rhythm," mixing Winston's essays with Saklikar's poems, for *Listening to the Bees*.

And, yes, they have included a poem entitled "Labiomaxillary."



IN FRENCH GUIANA ON THE north-east coast of South America, Mark Winston ob-

## TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE

Poetry that gives you hives

served stingless bees.

In recent years, he has become an informal advisor to Hives for Humanity (H4H) in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

For twenty years, beginning in 1980, an abandoned building at the edge of SFU downtown became the Bee

House where Winston and his research students were the Swarm Team.

He continues to learn how bees provide a model for how to be in the world: "collaborative and communicative, listening deeply to others, being present in the moment."



Renée Sarojini Saklikar and Mark Winston will be at the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, Aug. 16-19.



RENÉE SAROJINI SAKLIKAR IS A mentor and instructor for SFU's writing and publishing program who spent time with Winston's original research documents. She writes:

"My poetics lean to language as material, and the quest is to marry song, chants, spells and incantations with syntactical wordplay, embroidering the poems I make with numeric patterns, such as my obsession with both hexagons and anything to do with the number six, and the ten-syllable line, whose movement sometimes leads to form poetic structures..."

In each form, she allows "lyricism to exist within and alongside the language of science" with less description and more sound.

"Scientific language," says Winston, "becomes poetry for me through the sheer joy of jargon's sound and rhythm."

For instance, one of the

terms that "evokes personal resonance" is "hibernalcum, a place of abode in which a creature seeks refuge."

There are photos and illustrations throughout the book as well as an appendix of terms related to Winston's published research papers.

Alongside Saklikar's poem "Hibernacula" is a photograph of the poet sitting on the back of a garden bench surrounded by blooms and structures in the form of large-winged bees.



SAKLIKAR TITLES A POEM "A MOISHE (To Mark)" which ends: "into the bee yard / you brought me—and so we whispered / let the song reside in us forever."



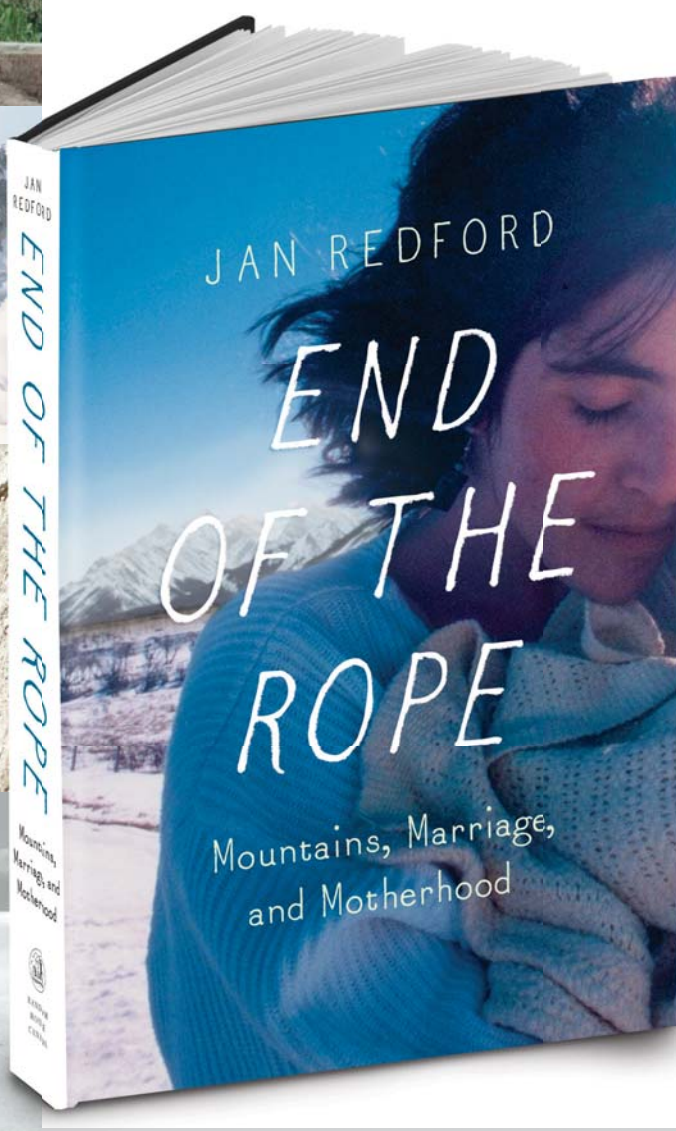
Mark L. Winston says of collaborating with Saklikar, "her poetry has deepened my own thinking about the science I've done over the last forty-five years."

978-0-88971-346-8

Mary Ann Moore is a poet, and writing mentor in Nanaimo. Her last book was *Fishing for Mermaids* (Leaf Press) She blogs at [apoetsnanaimo.ca](http://apoetsnanaimo.ca)



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# NATURE

## Wake up and smell the smoke

**U**SING COMPUTER MODELS based on a conservative rate of temperature increase for the planet, fire ecologists predicted the extent of the worst wildfire season in B.C. history last year was not supposed to happen until 2050.

“It represents a new normal,” says ecologist **Robert Gray** in **British Columbia Burning: The Worst Wildfire Season in B.C. History** (MacIntyre Purcell \$19.95) by **Bethany Lindsay**, “and is part of a global trend of increasing mega-fires... we’re going to see a lot more fire.”

In 2017, B.C. declared a state of emergency when more than 200 separate forest fires were raging. Smoke drifted all the way to Saskatchewan. Last year more than 65,000 people were evacuated from their homes.

It was the weather and fuel conditions that made last year unprecedented, not the number of blazes. There were 1,339 wildfires in total, but that’s actually much lower than the ten-year-average of 1,844 fires per year. It was the third lowest total in the past decade.

As outlined in *British Columbia Burning*, with photos gathered by **Kelly**

**Sinoski**, B.C. was part of a global crisis in fire management. Some 4,700 firefighters and associated personnel from across Canada fought the fires—with help from experts for Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S., as well as inmates from four B.C. jails who received token payment for ancillary support jobs.



**Not just people suffer: A forest fire worker in Williams Lake feeds an apple to a donkey.**

There’s a twelve percent increase in lightning strikes for every degree of warming; almost 40% of forest fires in B.C. are started by lightning.

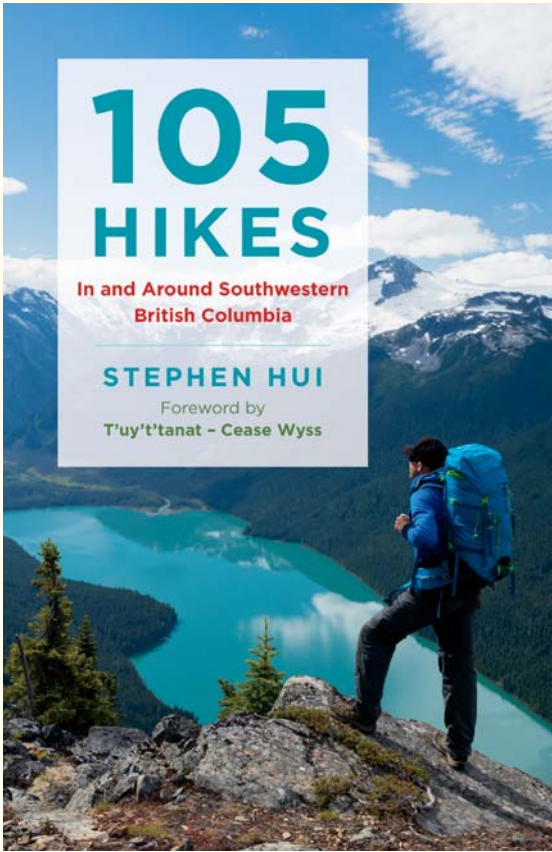
*British Columbia Burning* provides an overall chronicle of the devastation that was wrought by wildfires on more than 1.2 million hectares in 2017, as well as the resiliency of those who were forced to flee, and the courage of those who enabled them to return.

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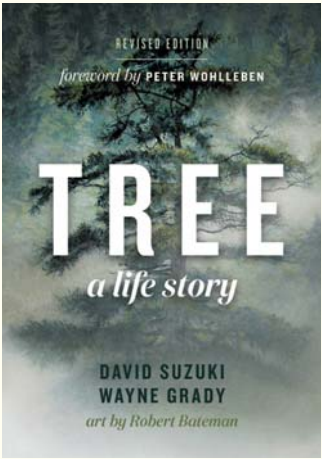
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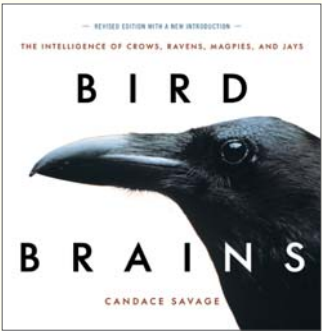
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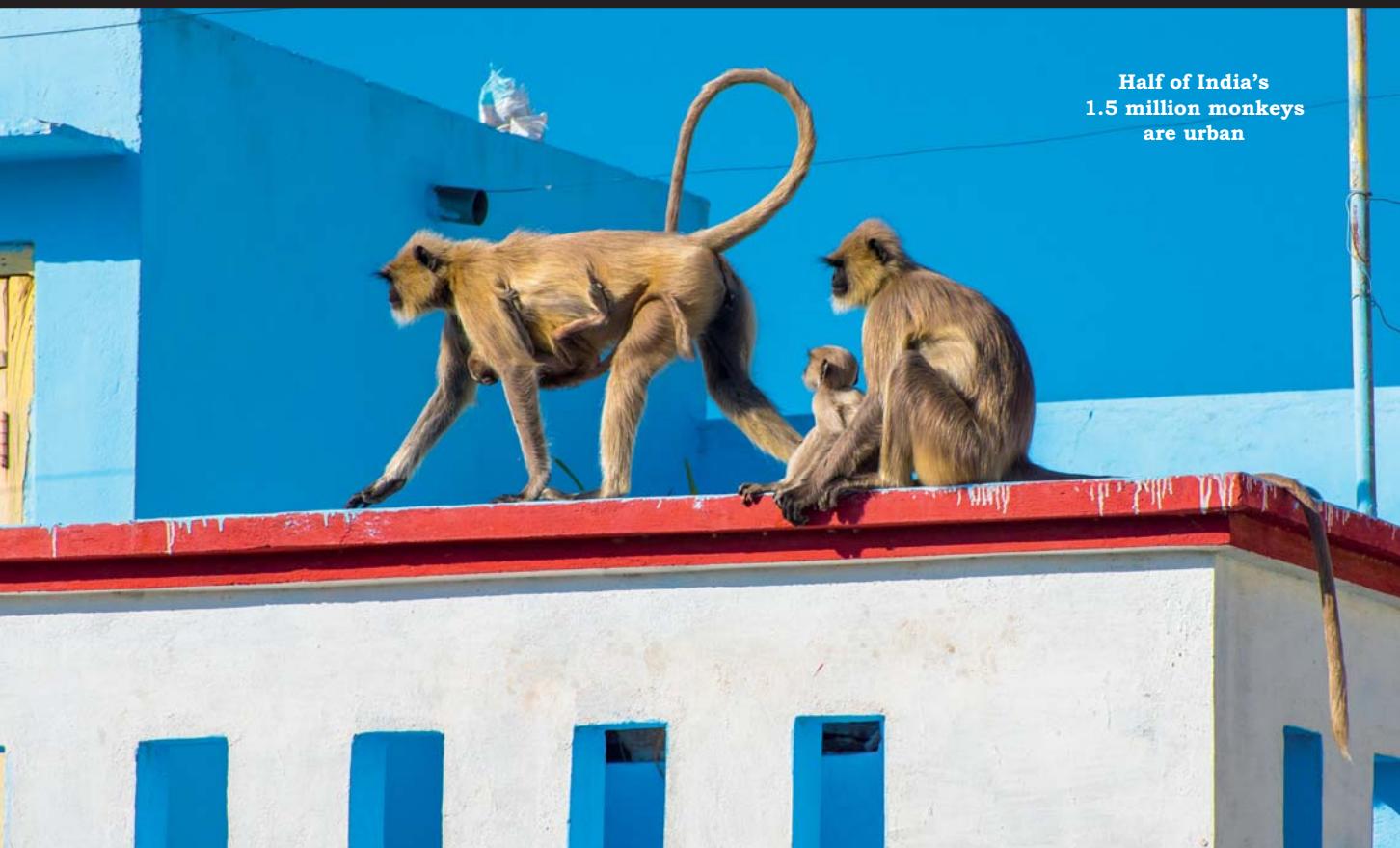
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Half of India's  
1.5 million monkeys  
are urban

# Wild in the streets

From Miami to Berlin to Dundas to Helsinki



WE HAVE LARGELY BANISHED WILD LIFE FROM SUBURBIA BEYOND hummingbirds and robins. In North America, most homeowners and tenants alike abhor raccoons. The occasional squirrel is okay, but snakes and wolves and bears are definitely verboten.

There are feral chickens in Miami and Berlin has wild boars, but most cities won't allow you to keep a goat. An attitude to treat wildlife as invaders, akin to rats, has led to alienation from nature in general. That's why **Michelle Mulders' *Going Wild: Helping Nature Thrive in Cities*** (Orca \$19.95) makes the case for more biodiversity in urban areas.

Mulders encourages kids to build garden boxes in parking lots, or grow edible mushrooms in the bathroom, or perhaps put vegetable scraps into a vermicomposter to feed worms that will help in the garden.

Composting is good for the soul and the soil. Kids like **Adeline Tiffanie Suwana** in Jakarta have to lead the way. To counteract constant flooding, at age ten she invited 150 friends to plant mangrove trees to keep the soil from washing away. They have since formed an organization in Indonesia called Sawabat Alam (Friends of Nature).

Kids in Dundas, Ontario worked with their parents and teachers to rip up pavement and build an interpretive wetland outside their classroom. In Adelaide, Australia, kids helped plant three million native trees. Elks are now as common in Helsinki as deer are in parts of Victoria. Let the moose loose. Let the grass amass.

*Going Wild* is all about helping nature make a comeback, making room for wilderness amid the concrete.

9781459812871



NATURE IS NOT ONLY GOOD FOR OUR BODIES; it can have a profound healing effect. **Maggie de Vries** has dramatized that fact with an unusual story about a girl who is based on her niece. The girl's mother—Maggie de Vries' sister, Sarah—went missing from the Downtown Eastside in 1988.

De Vries' has already written an award-winning non-fiction book about her own search for Sarah, but this time she has crafted a fanciful picture book, illustrated by **Janice Kun**, for ages 4-8. While mother and daughter never got to know each other in real life, de Vries'

**Swimming with Seals** (Orca \$19.95) invents a scenario whereby they are united by their mutual love of swimming. When the girl can frolic with the seals and her mother in the ocean, the pain of separation is healed.

9781459813212



HAVING GAINED A CHRISTIE HARRIS PRIZE NOMINATION FOR *Wolf Island*, Great Bear Rainforest photographer **Ian McCallister** and animal rights activist **Nicholas Read**—author of *City Critters: Wildlife in the Urban Jungle*—have teamed up for two books for young readers (age 5-8). **The Seal Garden** (Orca \$19.95) uses photos and text to demonstrate how seals take refuge from storms and predators in The Great Bear Sea; and **A Bear's Life** (Orca \$19.95) visually depicts a year in the lives of black bears, grizzly bears, and spirit bears as they catch fish, eat berries, climb trees and take long naps.

A Bear's Life: 9781459812703; Seal Garden: 978-1-4598-1267-3

## Five things to drive you buggy

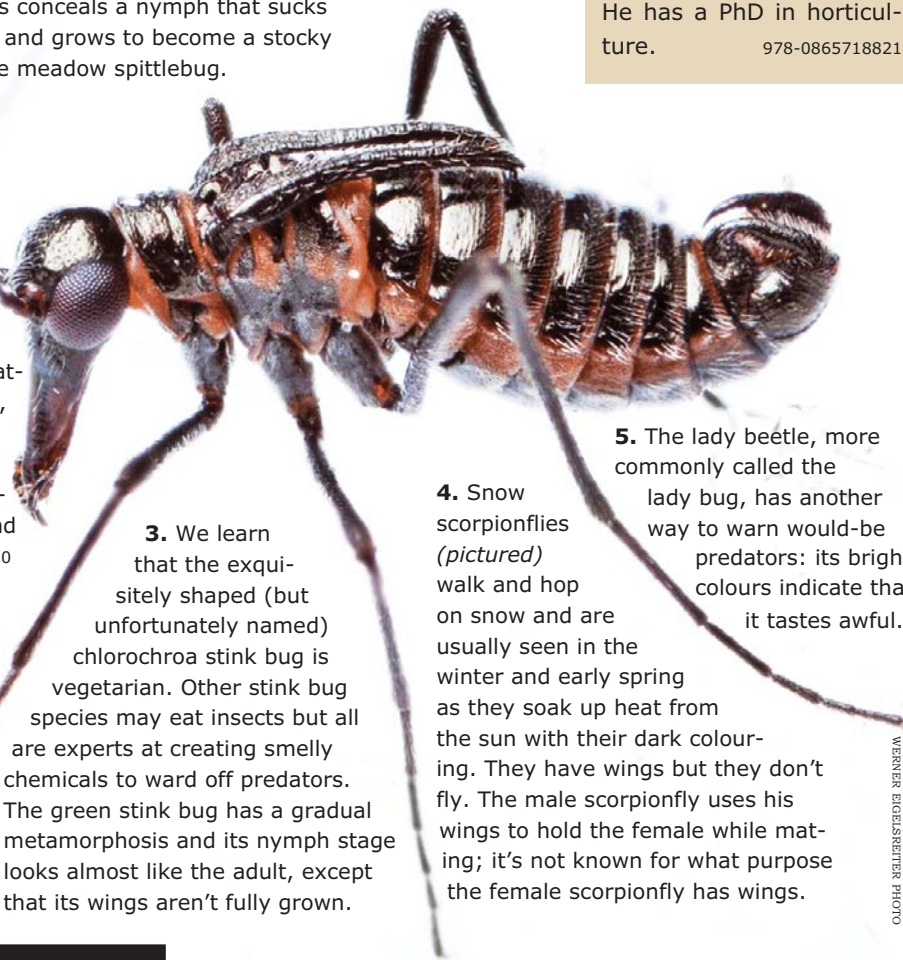
Who knew beetles also pol-

linate plants? With their long antennae and often colourful bodies, golden flower long-horn beetles, like bees, visit flowers to feed on pollen and nectar. They are "really a stand out," says Dr. **Robert Cannings** in **A Field Guide to Insects of the Pacific Northwest** (Harbour \$7.95).

Cannings, the older brother of twin naturalists **Richard** and **Sydney Cannings**, has produced a durable, water-resistant compendium describing fifty of the most common species such as silverfish, wingless and slender, that live in buildings and nibble on paper and cloth. 978-1-55017-834-0

1. Those wonderful sounds associated with summer, which are made by crickets, katydids, and grasshoppers happen when these insects communicate noisily by rubbing their wings, or legs and wings, together. Given this way of communicating, it shouldn't be surprising that their ears are on their front legs.

2. Some people might want to know that the white foamy 'spit' we often see on forest plant stems conceals a nymph that sucks up plant fluids and grows to become a stocky adult called the meadow spittlebug.



3. We learn that the exquisitely shaped (but unfortunately named) chlorochroa stink bug is vegetarian. Other stink bug species may eat insects but all are experts at creating smelly chemicals to ward off predators. The green stink bug has a gradual metamorphosis and its nymph stage looks almost like the adult, except that its wings aren't fully grown.

4. Snow scorpionflies (*pictured*) walk and hop on snow and are usually seen in the winter and early spring as they soak up heat from the sun with their dark colouring. They have wings but they don't fly. The male scorpionfly uses his wings to hold the female while mating; it's not known for what purpose the female scorpionfly has wings.

## MAKING SUNLIGHT

"Though an old man, I am a young gardener." Using this quote from **Thomas Jefferson**, **Lee Reich** opens his entertaining guide to gardening, praising the lifelong learning that awaits all those who are captivated by the colours, flavours and aromas of gardens.

**The Ever Curious Gardener: Using a Little Natural Science for a Much Better Garden** (New Society \$18.99) is aimed at those who want to move past 'back-of-the-seed-pack' planting by injecting a little scientific knowledge into their growing practices.

Readers learn such tidbits as mixing old-fashioned incandescent bulbs with fluorescent tubes is best for artificial lighting because the most effective colours are red and blue. To put it succinctly, red promotes longer stems and larger leaves. Blue has the opposite effect, promoting compact growth. Too much red makes for spindly plants; too much blue makes for stunted plants. Other colours do similar things but less so. As fluorescent lights are rich in blue and incandescent bulbs are rich in red, the combination gives a good approximation of sunlight. "The combination even looks sunny," writes Reich.

Lee Reich provides insightful and practical guidance on growing a garden. He has a PhD in horticulture.

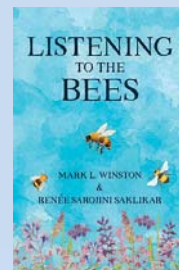
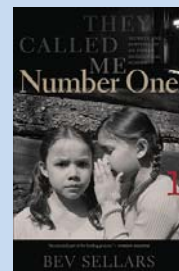
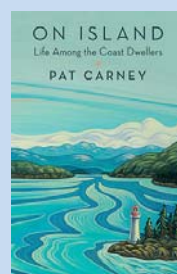
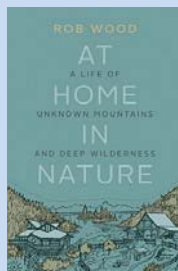
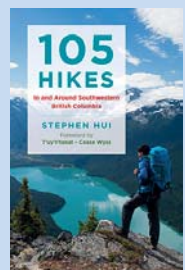
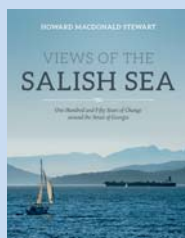
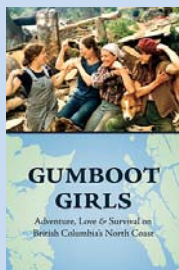
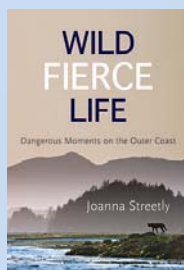
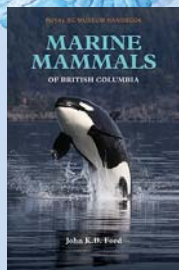
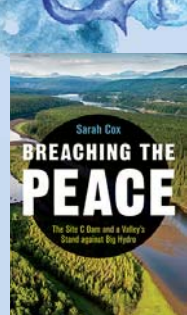
978-0865718821

5. The lady beetle, more commonly called the lady bug, has another way to warn would-be predators: its bright colours indicate that it tastes awful.





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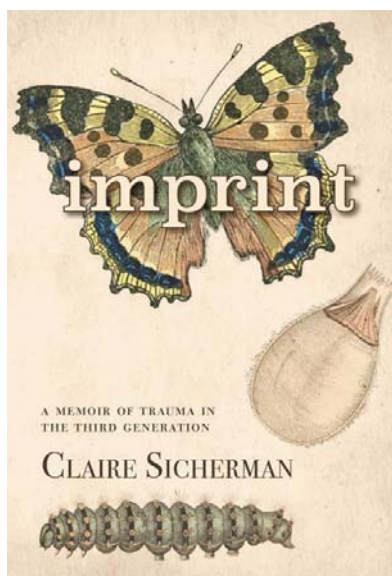
Conseil des Arts du Canada

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund for this project.

## These exemplary titles are on



Selected by Alan Twigg

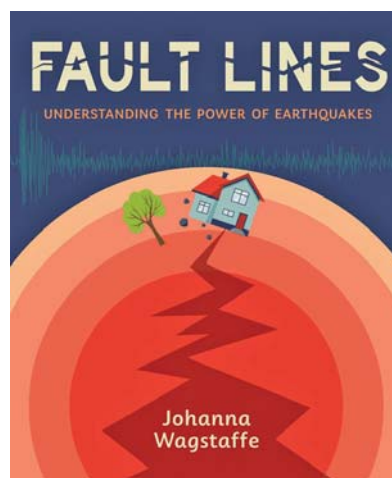


**Imprint: A Memoir of Trauma in the Third Generation by Claire Sicherman** (Caitlin \$22.95)

Sicherman grew up reading Anne Frank and watching Schindler's List, not knowing that most of her ancestors were murdered in the Holocaust. Sicherman's grandparents didn't talk about their trauma. Her mother grew up in Communist Czechoslovakia unaware she was Jewish. Now a mother herself, Sicherman explores the intergenerational transmission of trauma, how genes can carry memories.

**Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese** (D&M \$21.95)

Indian Horse is now the basis for a feature film. It tells the story of Saul Indian Horse whose last binge almost killed him, and now he's a reluctant resident in a treatment centre for alcoholics, surrounded by people he's sure will never understand him. But Saul wants peace, and he grudgingly comes to see that he'll find it only through telling his story, including his northern Ojibway experiences as residential school student who excelled at hockey.

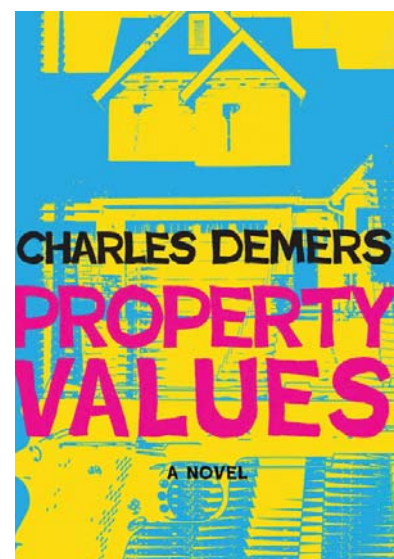


**Fault Lines: Understanding the Power of Earthquakes by Johanna Wagstaffe** (Orca \$24.95)

CBC meteorologist and seismologist Johanna Wagstaffe takes you through her own journey of understanding the earth beneath our feet, including her grandmother's memories of surviving a 6.8 earthquake that struck Western Australia. Kids will learn the science behind what makes the earth rumble, as well as read stories from other kids who have experienced the wonder and terror of an earthquake in other parts of the globe.

**Property Values by Charles Demers** (Arsenal Pulp Press \$17.95)

If you're sick of hearing upper class twits bellyaching about the housing crisis, you might want to laugh about it instead. Charles Demers' shrewd send-up of the lengths some folks will go to manipulate the market--as if they are being clever poker players--is an ascerbic morality tale disguised as a crime novel. Demers' wisdom about politics and his deep appreciation of Lower Mainland history is as engaging as his widely acknowledged humour.





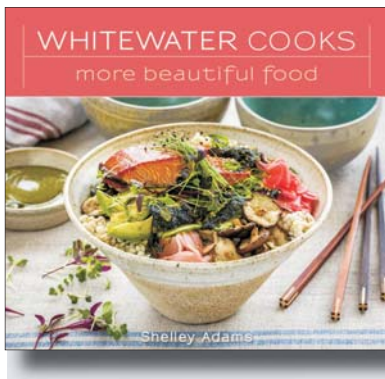




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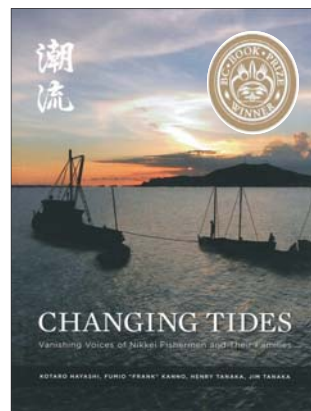


## WHITEWATER COOKS more beautiful food Shelley Adams

The bestselling *Whitewater Cooks More Beautiful Food* is full of new recipes to inspire fans and delight newcomers to this fabulous cookbook series. Shelley's innate flair for creating and developing recipes have made her famous for turning home cooks into culinary rock stars. Collect them all. Find them at your local book store or kitchen shop.

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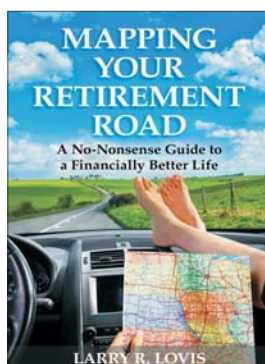


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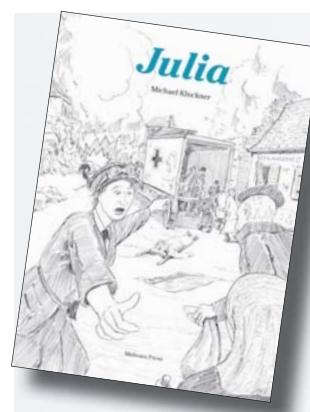
## MAPPING YOUR RETIREMENT ROAD

A No-Nonsense Guide to a  
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Larry R. Lovis

Who doesn't want a financially better life in retirement? This helpful guide appeals to a wide audience from young people beginning to plan for the future, boomers approaching retirement and anyone already in retirement. With his easy, conversational tone, Larry Lovis makes the complex world of financial planning easy to understand while providing the practical tools needed for a long and happy retirement.

9781775107002 \$24.95 pb Lovis Wealth Mgmt

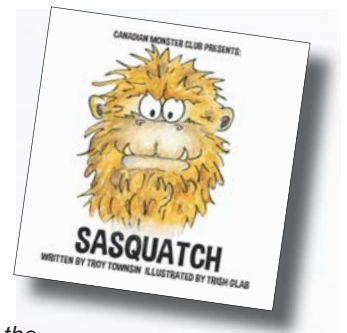


## JULIA

Michael Kluckner

A novelist, journalist, socialite, botanist, explorer, and World War I ambulance driver, Julia Henshaw was a unique and colourful personality. This graphic biography follows her extraordinary life from Montreal to Vancouver, from the Rocky Mountains to England, and from the mining towns of BC's Kootenays to the battlefields of France and Belgium. This provides a fascinating look at life in the early 20th century.

9781988242200 \$19.95 pb Midtown Press



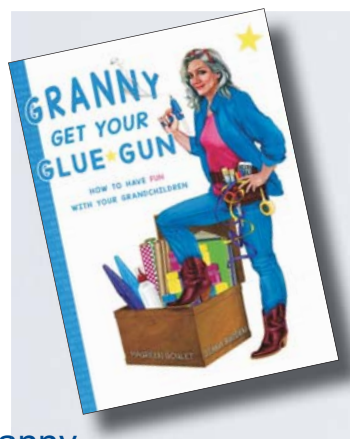
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Troy Townsin

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9781928131038 \$12.95 hc Polyglot Publishing

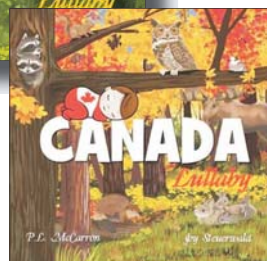
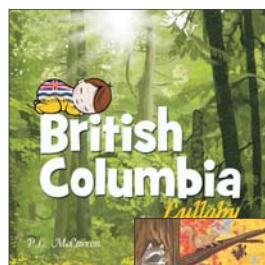


## Granny Get Your Glue Gun How to Have Fun with Your Grandchildren

Maureen Goulet & Diana Budden

Named in the top 10 best books of 2017 for grandparents by *Grand Magazine*. Have fun with your grandkids this summer with the ideal resource book for home or cottage. You'll never hear, "I'm bored" again! Activities are accompanied by easy to follow instructions and beautiful photos to keep kids entertained with everything from building wine cork boats, to fun in the kitchen, great games to play or how to make an easy bird feeder.

9780994809704 \$19.95 pb MADI Publishing



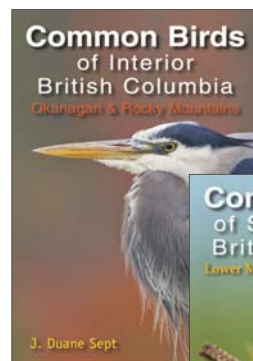
## CANADA Lullaby

P. L. McCarron

Illus Joy Steuerwald

New in the *Baby Lullaby* series - this stunning celebration of Canada has gorgeous paintings of iconic scenery and wildlife that blend with a soothing ballad to capture the very essence of the country, from the wild Pacific and sun-painted Rocky Mountains to prairies, rolling farmlands and on to the Atlantic coastline. This beautiful and sentimental series has become wildly popular with locals and visitors alike.

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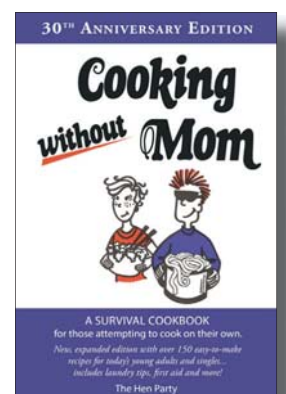


## Common Birds of Southwestern British Columbia Lower Mainland & Vancouver Island

9780973981995 \$14.95 Calypso Publishing

These must-have guides in the *Calypso Nature Series* feature regional bird species identified with vivid colour images, interesting facts and useful information such as locale, appearance, calls and songs, nests and eggs, habitat notes and more. Both great guides for everyone from backyard birders to serious hobbyists. See [www.sandhillbooks.com](http://www.sandhillbooks.com) for the whole series!

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In this new edition, over 150 recipes better reflect today's cooking trends. It's also an important survival guide to domestic life with useful information such as essential grocery items, kitchen terms, food storage, how to do laundry, first aid basics, fire prevention and more. Don't let your child leave home without it!

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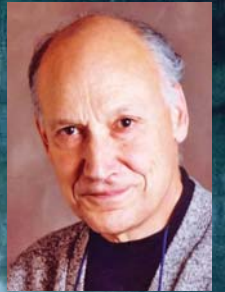




"The ranch sits, miraculously,  
at a particular intersection of time and space.  
So, at a slightly different scale, does the rest of  
our earth. Both share the same miracle."

COLE HARRIS

This hay barn on  
the Harris ranch  
(1972) adjoined an  
internment camp  
for Japanese  
Canadians  
during WW II.



Cole Harris

## MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

HARRIS FAMILY PHOTO

**Ranch in the Slocan:  
A Biography of a Kootenay  
Farm, 1896-2017**  
by Cole Harris  
(Harbour \$24.95)

BY MARK FORSYTHE

**E**STEEMED UBC GEOGRAPHER **Cole Harris** has written extensively about European settlement in Canada and colonialism's impact on Indigenous peoples.

His family memoir is different.

Drawing on letters, records, photos and family stories, Harris describes the transformation of his grandfather **Joseph Colebrook Harris** from an upper-middle class gentleman to a socialist-leaning Slocan Valley rancher following his arrival in Canada in the late 1800s.

As a younger son in a deeply religious industrial family in Calne, Wiltshire, athletic Joseph Colebrook Harris didn't display much aptitude for the family's meat processing business when it was one of the largest of its kind in England.

At age 18 he was shipped off to Guelph Agricultural College in Ontario to learn how to be a farmer but, as a mediocre student, he found the college dull. As someone who made friends easily, he journeyed by train to the West Coast for summer visits. In British Columbia, as he helped out on farms, fished, played tennis and attended dinner parties,

he was enamoured of new freedoms.

Upon a return to England in 1892, he realized, "I could never fit in such stodgy surroundings... I longed to be back in Canada."

Dodging stodgy, Joe cut short his agricultural schooling and bought land (with family money) in the Cowichan Valley where he hired Chinese workers, "half-breeds" and an intemperate deserter from the Royal Navy named **Bosun**.

Efforts to turn a bog into a farm proved futile. Members of the Fabian Society suggested the Slocan Valley where "opportunities were boundless" due to a mining boom. After deciding New Denver would likely become a supply centre for the mining industry, Joe bought land southwest of the town.

"I became the owner of 245 acres of very mountainous land," he recalled, "less than 20 acres of which was really fit for cultivation."

Joe moved into a spartan cabin with more workers, including Bosun. They pasted over cracks with newspapers to keep the winter out, bought two Clydesdales, cleared timber, hauled firewood, planted vegetables and eventually grew 1,000 fruit trees amid the mountain wilderness. It became known as Bosun Ranch.



JOE VISITED ENGLAND AND MARRIED **Margaret**, a cultured Scottish woman. Cole Harris writes: "Years later she told my mother that as she and her

husband got closer and closer to the Slocan, the estate got smaller and smaller.

"When they finally reached it at the end of a jarring wagon ride from the wharf at New Denver on an improbable, end-of-winter road, it became a log cabin stinking of potatoes in a tiny mountainside clearing."

Margaret stayed, became a farm wife and mother, but Bosun Ranch never became commercially successful. Its orchards were too distant from markets, the dairy operation was too small and the land had limited agricultural capacity. An inheritance financed construction of an 18-room ranch house, but the need to generate income increased as family money dwindled.

In 1898, Joe prospected two mineral claims on his property and discovered galena ore, a source for lead and silver. He sold one to an English syndicate for \$7,000. Initially the Bosun Mine performed well, but by the 1930s it was played out and had closed.

Harris describes it as "an industrial slice through the middle of my grandfather's farm."

Gradually, Joe fused his religious beliefs with socialist ideals. "He thought that capitalism produced inequality and poverty, and in the interest of social justice, government should centrally manage

the economy...

"Moreover, a socialist spirit need be in the air...that spirit which was infused in Christ's life and teaching."

Joe Harris consequently created the Useful People's Party and he compared humans to cabbages who needed, "sound heads and tender hearts." He tried, "with a fanatical edge softened by kindness and humour to convince whoever would listen that greed should give way to

cooperation and we should all work for the common good in wisely managed societies."



DURING WW II, AFTER Japanese Canadians were forcibly sent inland, part of Bosun Ranch was leased

to the Security Commission. About 50 elderly Japanese Canadian men lived in the ranch house while families stayed in basic camp houses in the Far Field. Many internees worked at the local hospital and businesses. Joe's family came to respect and admire them, as did many in New Denver who were initially fearful.

Over time, he concluded, "it became increasingly clear that the appreciation and accommodation of a good measure of diversity were built into the nature of Canada." One can argue this naïve viewpoint failed to assess the plight of the people he magnanimously befriended.

Eventually, Cole Harris'

parents built a cabin beside a small lake and spent summers on the family property. Cole's father left to become an academic but Cole's uncle Sandy stayed behind to work the ranch. Sandy resented this division of labour, which made for painful complications later.

The old ranch house fell into disrepair and was invaded by pack rats. Much of it was torn down, but the original cabin was preserved and restored by Cole Harris.

As *Ranch in the Slocan* describes the later construction of a low impact clay house in the 1970s, we're introduced to various American, countercultural back-to-the-landers and draft evaders who came north with remarkable skills and "prescriptions for change." These immigrants became crucial to Cole Harris' projects and also greatly contributed to the development of Slocan Lake communities.

*Ranch in the Slocan* is a tribute to a very particular B.C. landscape and its power to shape lives. The author hopes his own children will use the land creatively.

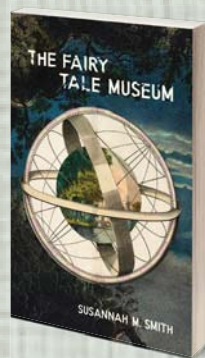
Harris probes with the rigour of a scholar, but by this book's end, we see how the natural environment of the Slocan has also shaped the soul of its chronicler.

987-1-55017-823-4

Former CBC radio host of *Almanac* and long-time BCBW contributor Mark Forsythe remains active in numerous historical and community groups.



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**The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind**  
Vanessa Farnsworth

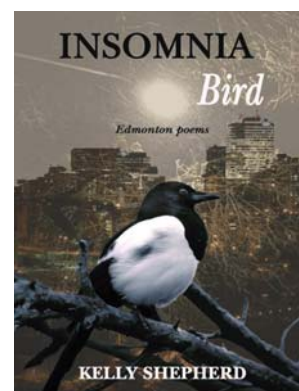
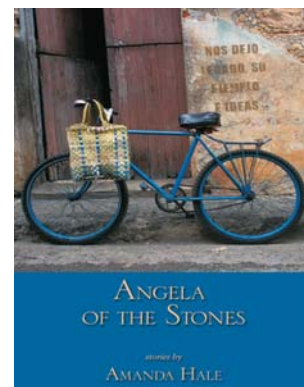
Stories of women trying to get their footings, preserve their sanity, and survive in circumstances they never thought they would find themselves in. Filled with burnt-at-the-edges dialogue, contemporary humour, and compelling pacing.

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Amanda Hale

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ISBN: 978-1-77187-165-5  
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**Insomnia Bird**  
Kelly Shepherd

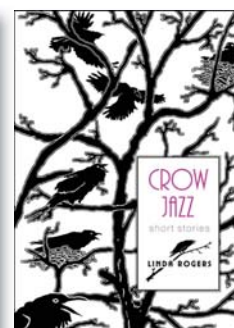
The *genius loci*, the Black-billed Magpie is the protagonist and the muse, the thread that connects Shepherd's poems as they spiral around Edmonton's "shadow geography," shifting between lyricism and found text, emulating a Black-billed Magpie's nest. The poems speed like a NAIT train and dive like magpies after a tasty image or crumb of detail.

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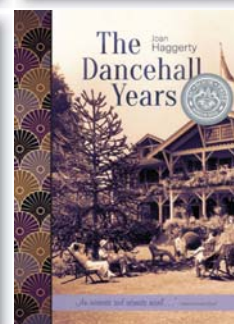
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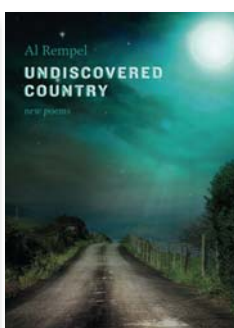
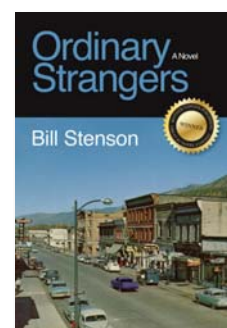
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**The Unceasing Storm:  
Memories of the Chinese  
Cultural Revolution**  
by Katherine Luo  
(Douglas & McIntyre \$22.95)

BY JOAN GIVNER

IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT the benign presence of acclaimed novelist **Madeleine Thien** hovers over **Katherine Luo's** memoir; the two share a family connection as well as the same literary subject matter.

After Luo immigrated to Canada in 1998, she taught piano and voice in Vancouver where she met and married Thien's father. When the two women got to know each other, Thien learned that in her youth Luo had been a student at Beijing's Central Academy of Drama, and later a member of the opera troupe of the Red Army.

Thien was astonished to discover that Luo had actually experienced the suffering of artists and musicians that Thien had so vividly imagined in her novel *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (Knopf) for which she won the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the \$100,000 Scotiabank Giller Prize in 2016.

Both writers focus primarily on the Chinese Cultural Revolution (1966-76) as well as referring to events before and after that crucial decade—the political and military campaigns of Mao Zedong which began in 1927 and the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989. At least sixty million died as a result of Mao Zedong's political campaigns, yet his policies have never been repudiated by the Chinese Communist Party.

Thien contributes a concise foreword to her step-mother's book, in which she explains that it is a response to the Chinese government's obfuscation and denial of history. Luo's achievement is to make visible the hidden history and give human faces to the bare statistics. Her recurring theme is the destruction of individual lives, the thwarting of creative talent, and the loss of an entire country's cultural legacy and artistic future. Each essay describes families torn apart, relationships poisoned, and lives ruined, many ending in suicide.

For those who might note a

disparity in length and format among the thirty-seven pieces (nine different translators worked on them), Thien explains that the Chinese essay is a fluid genre that includes a multiplicity of forms—sketches, political manifestos, travel notes, brief vignettes, and journalistic reportage. Luo's collection comprises most of these as well as biographical accounts of the lives of her parents and relatives, forming a litany of tragic lives ending in premature deaths and suicide.

The longest and most powerful narrative, "Smile," begins with a meditation on smiles. She notices that people in Canada casually exchange friendly smiles with complete strangers. This habit contrasts with the range of sinister smiles she remembers from earlier decades in China—the jeering smile at the misfortune

of others, the cold smile of mocking sarcasm, the wicked smile of evil intent, the baring of teeth in a false smile.

From these observations she makes the transition to the painful life of **Xiao Wan**, a talented opera singer, with a radiant smile. Because her class background was not good (both her father and step-father were army officers), her status dropped into the category of those to be "executed, imprisoned or placed under surveillance." The party forbade her marriage to the man she loved and approved instead a dull man with impeccable credentials—"poor peasant for three generations." This failed to improve her situation and, even during a later period of detente, she

was not reinstated as a singer and never given the roles she deserved. Her smile became an expression of never-ending helplessness.

One lighter autobiographical piece, "My Graduation Certificate," is a mini-drama with lively dialogue and humour. It takes place in the 1980s during a brief period of deceptive detente by the repressive regime. An order went out to re-issue certificates to those unfairly penalized and prevented from graduating in previous decades and Luo, then deputy head of *The People's Music Press*, determined to get her just deserts. In spite of her high academic achievement, she had been expelled from the Central Academy of Drama

**Katherine Luo during the Cultural Revolution, which marked the beginning of years of desperate and terrible struggle.**

because of her capitalist origins (her father was a businessman) and overseas relations. When she tried to get the certificate she deserved, she was rebuffed by one official after another (shades of Dickens' Department of Circumlocution).

"Well, Luo, you are definitely different. I remember you to be shy and timid, but you're quite a shrewd one now, aren't you?" an unsympathetic former teacher told her.

Finally, she found a former teacher willing and able to redress the wrong. She got her promotion but after forty years of being denied respect and lost income, it came a little too late. Yet she acknowledges that compared with so many greater abuses, hers seem trivial.

Another short piece, "Diaries," describes her effort at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution's Cleansing of Class Ranks Campaign in 1968, to destroy the diaries and letters that may have contained evidence of "political unreliability." Unfortunately, she overlooked two diaries and these were seized to be scrutinized for evidence of guilt. While she was detained for eight months doing manual labour and writing confessions, no evidence of "subversive thoughts and opinions" was ever found.

The loss of all her written diaries and letters illustrates the means by which subsequent generations have been denied access to important records detailing the history of their country. Luo's experience also has a counterpart in Thien's novel. There a rare clandestine work, *The Book of Records*, is passed from person to person during the worst times. One character after another adds to it, even risking torture and execution to do so. Thus Thien's memorable fictional characters—Wen the Dreamer, Sparrow, Swirl, Big Mother Knife—and Kuo's memories of her family and friends converge in the shared attempt to reclaim history. While Luo's work will not achieve the international acclaim of Thien's novel, it is nevertheless a very worthy companion piece.

978-1-77162-186-1

*Joan Givner just gets better and better—writing now from Victoria.*



JOAN GIVNER



# BRITISH COLUMBIA BURNING

The worst wildfire season in B.C. history

- STATE OF EMERGENCY
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BETHANY LINDSAY  
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"Urgent and beautifully told, this is a story of how British Columbia may be facing a future of increasingly epic wildfires. It is not only good reading, but also contains vital information."

— **Linda Solomon Wood**, founder and editor-in-chief of the *National Observer*

## HOT SUMMER READS



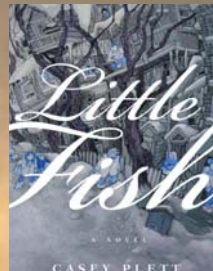
### SODOM ROAD EXIT *Amber Dawn*

"As *Sodom Road Exit* queers the horror genre, it also asks what queer horror includes—a critical question right now—and how we heal from that trauma." —*The Globe and Mail*



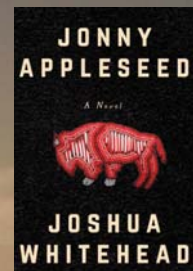
### THE PLAGUE *Kevin Chong*

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



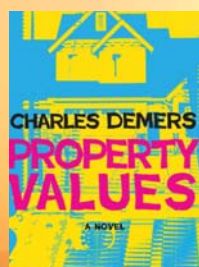
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**Against the Current:  
The Remarkable Life of  
Agnes Deans Cameron**  
by **Cathy Converse**  
(Touchwood \$30)

**W**HEN **AGNES Deans Cameron** died in 1912, her funeral cortege was the largest the city of Victoria had ever witnessed. Fast forward to Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation and Agnes Deans Cameron was named one of the top 150 most significant individuals in B.C.'s history. But few people know her as the first celebrated author to be born in B.C.

Born in Victoria in 1863, she wrote one significant book, *The New North: Being Some Account of a Woman's Journey through Canada to the Arctic* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1910), that described a 10,000 mile return trip she made in 1908 with her niece. Cameron claimed they were the first non-Indigenous women to reach the Arctic overland and to travel down the Mackenzie River to the Beaufort Sea.

A lifelong crusader for women's suffrage, Cameron became B.C.'s first female high school teacher in 1890 and its first female principal in 1894. She was also one of British Columbia's first female journalists, publishing extensively in Canadian and American magazines such as *Saturday Evening Post*, *Pacific Monthly*, *The Canadian Magazine*, *Educational Journal of Western Canada* and *The Coast*.

Also, a perceptive observer of Inuit and Chipewyan culture and women, she travelled extensively in later years promoting immigration to western Canada and addressing audiences at Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrew's University and the Royal Geographical Society. Now she's the subject of **Cathy Converse's** **Against the Current: The Remarkable Life of Agnes Deans Cameron**.

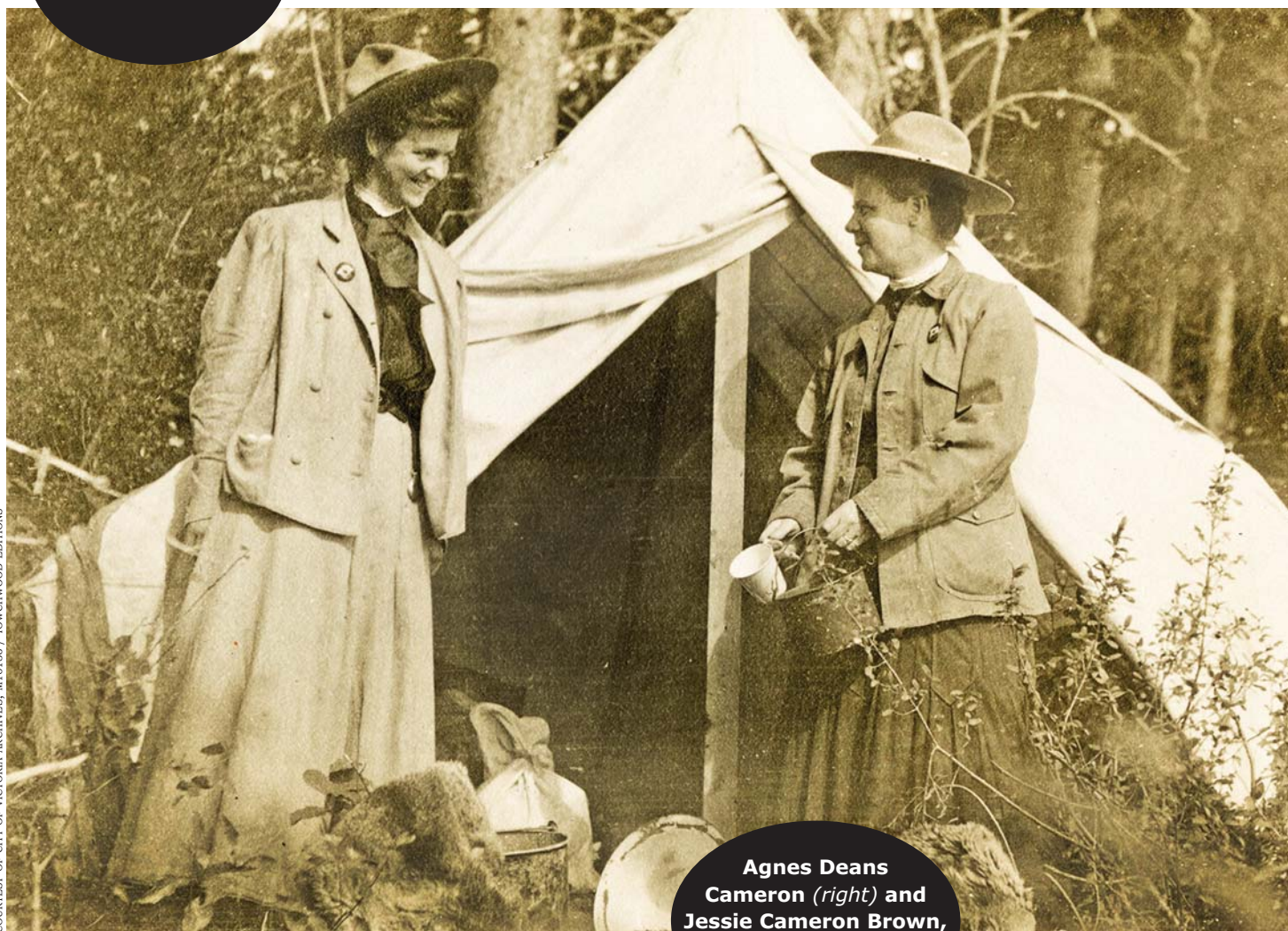
"The events that shaped Cameron's life, her integrity, her courage, and her intelligence piqued my interest," Converse says. "I was drawn to the fact that she was a strong woman who wrote her own script and was able to make the very best out of the very worst."

Cathy Converse was first introduced to Agnes Deans Cameron when **Roberta Pazdro** contributed a chapter to a book that Converse co-edited with **Barbra Latham** in 1980, called *In Her Own Right: Selected Essays in Women's History in B.C.*

"As a woman," Converse says, "I also felt that she could teach me about confidence and how to deflect the arrows that threaten to slap us the

"It is possible that when the history of British Columbia comes to be written," the *Daily Colonist* declared in 1912, "the name of **Agnes Deans Cameron** will be inscribed therein as the most remarkable woman citizen of the province."

## AGNES HEROINE OF CHANGE



**Agnes Deans Cameron (right) and Jessie Cameron Brown, Peace River, Alberta, 1908**

moment we dare to step apart from the norm."

★  
AGNES DEANS CAMERON'S PARENTS were Scottish. Her brother William became a Victoria alderman and a member of the B.C. legislature; Cameron chose teaching as a profession and never married. Possibly she was influenced by a visit to Victoria by the leading American suffragist **Susan B. Anthony** in 1874.

Cameron earned her first teaching certificate at age 13. She taught at Angela College in Victoria at age 16, then in Comox and the sawmill settlement of Granville, before returning to Victoria after the death of her father in 1884.

At 26, while teaching at Victoria Boys' School, she became infamous for strapping a disobedient student named **Herbert Burkholder**.

The parents objected to this disciplinary treatment and the controversy reached the press.

"I whipped him severely," she wrote, "just as severely as I could. But the father goes further and insists that I struck the boy on the head—this is a mistake." Cameron was fully exonerated.

Cameron was newsworthy again in 1901 when she wrote about sex discrimination in salaries. This time the Victoria school trustees dismissed her on a technicality for daring to threaten their authority. She was later reinstated.

In 1905, she was in hot water for allowing her students to use rulers for their drawing tests. Her dismissal this time brought forth a public outcry. A Royal Commission Inquiry was held for two months. It issued a 33-page report that upheld the firing.

The Royal Commission Inquiry process encouraged the government to suspend Cameron's first-class teaching certificate for three years effective June 1, 1906.

This fracas prompted Cameron to get elected as a Victoria School Trustee in 1906, placing herself in the position of working with the people who had fired her. Unable to work as a teacher, Cameron turned to journalism and was asked to speak at the third annual Canadian Press Association convention, in Winnipeg, in 1906. This led to a position with the Immigration Association, based in Chicago which prompted her resignation from the School Board of Victoria and her relocation to Chicago to work as a writer, chiefly writing about the Canadian West.

Cameron became vice-pres-

wrote. "Fated always to play a secondary part in the family drama, it is hard to see what of pleasure life holds for her. The birth of a baby girl is not attended with joy or thankfulness. From the beginning the little one is pushed into the background. The boy babies, even the dogs, have the choicer bed at night, and to them are given the best pieces of meat."

Cameron returned from the Arctic with a heightened awareness of the need to assert the equality of Aboriginal peoples. She returned to Chicago and later toured Britain in late 1909, with Jessie Cameron Brown and another niece, **Gladys Cameron**, giving presentations about her journey to the Arctic Circle.

In 1911, Cameron returned to Victoria and appeared on

stage with the British suffragette **Emmeline Pankhurst**.

Cameron's writing career was in its ascendancy with a four-month contract from the *London Daily Mail* to write a daily column about Canada and the prospect of being hired by the government of Canada to lecture throughout Britain to encourage immigration. She planned to write a novel about mining camps to be based upon research in Stewart, B.C.

Now that larger metropolitan centres had recognized her spirit and accomplishments, Cameron soon discovered she was welcomed back to Victoria as a celebrity. Stricken with appendicitis, Cameron contracted pneumonia following surgery and died at age 48 on May 13, 1912, in Victoria. Her body was taken to Seattle for cremation. 9781771512701



**Finding John Rae**  
by **Alice Jane Hamilton**  
(Ronsdale Press \$21.95)

BY DYLAN BURROWS

IN FINDING JOHN RAE, **Alice Jane Hamilton** upends the standard narrative of mid-nineteenth century Arctic exploration, focussing not on the vainglorious search for the doomed Franklin Expedition but those left in its wake.

Hamilton vividly recounts the odyssey of her Orcadian ancestor, Hudson’s Bay Company trader, surveyor, surgeon, and Arctic sojourner **John Rae** (1813-1893).

During his fifth and final Arctic expedition in 1854, in what is now Canada’s Boothia Peninsula, Rae learned of the Franklin crew’s descent into starvation and cannibalism through the testimony of Inuit informants.

Rae’s inclusion of their stories as evidence in his confidential report to the British Admiralty was a fateful decision for both himself and the Indigenous inhabitants of the Arctic. Hoping to end the nation’s Arctic fascination and reallocate Royal Navy resources to the ongoing Crimean War, the Admiralty released the report prior to Rae’s return to London.

His trial in London’s court of public opinion was drawn out and brutal. However, Rae never recanted his words nor wavered in his defence of the integrity of his Inuit allies against efforts by the “British Establishment” to slander them as depraved, unreliable savages.

As a piece of creative non-fiction, Hamilton’s work combines careful historical research with literary invention to intimately detail Rae’s life during and after his difficult year in London.

Written as a series of entries in her ancestor’s personal diary, the story is driven by Rae’s decision to bear the cost of his life-altering decisions, an attitude captured by the Orcadian proverb, tara gott. Roughly translating to “it is done,” the proverb haunts Rae as much as it gives him the resolve to carry on.

★  
FINDING JOHN RAE FOLLOWS narrative arcs across seven chapters anchored by specific evocations of tara gott.

Chapters 1 through 3 centre on the single momentous year of 1854, when Rae met Inuit at Pelly Bay and Repulse Bay and obtained Franklin relics from them.

Chapter 1 covers Rae’s initial encounter with the Inuit hunter **In-nook-pozhee-jook**, or In-nook for short. In-nook’s possession of a Royal Navy cap band, and

his story of ghostly white men marching south several years prior, set Rae on this path to confirm the fate of the Franklin Expedition. The chapter also details Rae’s confirmation of the final link in the elusive Northwest Passage.

The public fallout from his momentous decision to include Inuit accounts of quaq, or cannibalism, occupies Chapter 2. Abandoned by his Royal Navy allies, and attacked by the grieving **Lady Franklin**

second narrative arc.

Across Chapters 4 through 6, Hamilton explores Rae’s efforts to rebuild his life in colonial Hamilton, even as the Arctic beckons him. He lived in Hamilton from 1857-1860.

In 1860 Rae married the much younger Kate Thompson and they moved away.

In Chapter 4, Rae’s enduring obsession with the Northwest Passage finally breaks him.

Belatedly awarded £10,000

respectability was measured in the pigment of one’s skin and the performance of middle-class propriety, Rae’s long-standing relationships with Indigenous peoples were a blight.

Throughout Chapters 5 and 6, Hamilton directly addresses the racism of colonial society. Kate’s miscarriages cut short their dream of family life, though through prayer and faith they “get on with the job of living,” and permanently

his desire to meet his mother’s healer.

By turns paternal and paternalistic, Rae’s relationship with Irniq blossoms during their summer meetings in Orkney in 1883 and 1886. His name literally translating to “son,” Irniq is for Rae the “son I have longed for.”

Travelling the land together, Irniq breaks their periods of contented silence to share the “full truth of what [Inuit] think of Kabloonans [white men].”

Under the aegis of British Arctic exploration, Inuit suffer resource theft, economic exploitation, and, for women, the constant threat of sexual assault.

## Alice Jane Hamilton’s Orcadian ancestor John Rae exposed cannibalism among the doomed Franklin Expedition.



Tomb of John Rae,  
St. Magnus Cathedral,  
Kirkwall, Orkney

and her literary ally, **Charles Dickens**, Rae mounts a stubborn defence of his credibility.

In Chapter 3, ostracized from London’s high society, Rae retreats to the safe haven of his childhood home in Stromness in the Orkney Islands off Scotland’s northern coast. Hamilton’s remarkable description of the isles in the mid nineteenth century is enhanced by masterful and scrupulous historical research.

However, Orkney is not the home Rae remembers. With a growing family and few economic prospects in Stromness, his sister and his brother-in-law inform him of their plans to join their younger siblings in Canada.

The death of Rae’s mother and the departure of all the Raes for Canada is an “end of an era” and opens the novel’s

by the British Admiralty for mapping the passage’s last link, Rae commissions his brothers’ shipbuilding company to construct the sailing-ship *Iceberg*.

Repeated delays and a downturn in family fortunes see Rae’s dream vessel moving coal on the Great Lakes rather than sailing Arctic waters in search of the remains of the Franklin Expedition.

After *Iceberg* sinks, Rae spirals into a year-long period of depression, from which he eventually recovers.

In the settled parts of colonial Canada, where

relocate to London, England, by 1870.

At the heart of empire, Rae finds himself overshadowed by the myths of the Franklin Expedition. While the press and public canonized Sir **John Franklin** as a hero, Rae is faced with his own relegation to a footnote in the annals of Arctic history.

Yet, as we find in the final chapter and the concluding passage of the narrative arc, the Inuit have not forgotten Dr. Rae. In 1881, he receives a letter from **Irniq**, a young Inuit man, who details how Rae saved his mother’s life years earlier during a complicated childbirth, and expresses

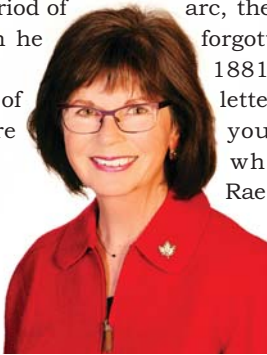
A work of creative non-fiction, this last chapter nonetheless reverberates with contemporary Inuit critique of Canadian Arctic colonialism. Hardly an act of cultural appropriation, Hamilton’s crafting of Irniq’s voice channels, I would wager, her conversations with Inuit elders while researching her book.

Through her perceptive and historically grounded narrative, Hamilton unravels Canadian national myths surrounding nineteenth century British Arctic exploration and forces her readers to confront the contemporary legacies of the era of John Franklin and John Rae for Inuit people.

9781553804819

Dylan Burrows is an Anishinaabe Ph.D. candidate at UBC’s history department.

Alice Jane Hamilton is the great-great granddaughter of John Rae’s sister, Marion





# PRIZES

## Public invited to Woodcock ceremony

As the author/editor of twenty-five books, popular poet and writing instructor **Lorna Crozier** will become the 25th recipient of the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for B.C. literature at a ceremony at the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library on June 28 at 7 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Crozier has won just about everything else, including the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence in 2013, both the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, two Pat Lowther Awards for best collection of poetry by a Canadian woman, a Governor General’s Award for *Inventing the Hawk* (1992) and a Canadian Authors Association Award. In 2009 she was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada.



**Lorna Crozier**



**Hope-Princeton Highway, Manning Park, 1960s.**  
**From *British Columbia by the Road* by Ben Bradley.**

won its venerable BC Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for historical writing for his book, **British Columbia by the Road: Car Culture and the Making of a Modern Landscape** (UBC Press). It was reviewed in the Winter issue of *BC BookWorld* by **Daniel Francis**. His longer version first appeared in *The Ormsby Review*.

BCHF delegates voted to support BC Heritage Fairs throughout the province and provide financial assistance to *The Ormsby Review*, the new online journal named in honour of Canadian historian and former BCHF president, **Margaret Ormsby**.



MICHAEL KATZ PHOTO

## Kindertransport graphic novel wins twice

WORTH \$10,000 EACH, THE NATIONAL VINE AWARDS FOR Jewish Literature in Canada are presented by the Koffler Centre for the Arts in four categories. The 2017 winners for Children’s/Young Adult were Berlin-born **Irene W. Watts** (text) and **Kathryn E. Shoemaker** (illustrations) for **Seeking Refuge** (Tradewind), their graphic novel arising from the Kindertransport that enabled ten thousand Jewish children to escape from Nazi Germany prior to the outbreak of World War II. For the same book, Watts and Shoemaker subsequently took home the Jonathan & Heather Berkowitz Prize in the Children and Youth category at the 2018 Western Canada Jewish Book Awards (*above*).

## Highways win in Nakusp

AT ITS AGM in Nakusp, the B.C. Historical Federation (BCHF) announced that **Ben Bradley** had

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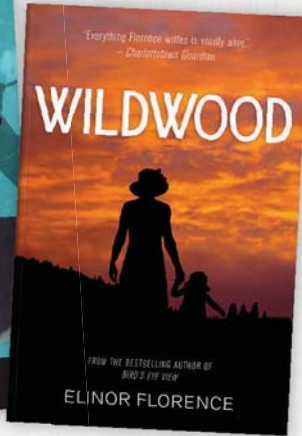
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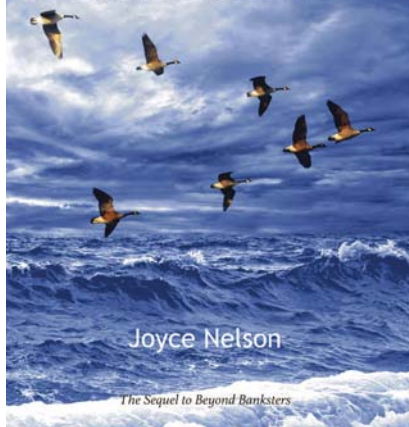
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# BC BOOK PRIZES



## As the west leans to the east

Just two of the seven awards at the 34th annual B.C. Book Prizes went to established B.C. presses

**N**EWCOMER **MERCEDES ENG** WON THE DOROTHY Livesay Poetry Prize for **Prison Industrial Complex Explodes** from Talonbooks [see page 26] while Touchwood Editions and veteran writer **Pat Carney** garnered The Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award—accorded only to a B.C.-published book—for **On Island: Life Among the Coast Dwellers**.

An ex-politician and former journalist, Carney ignored emcee **Billeh Nickerson's** warning that winners must not speak for more than two minutes or risk humiliation, resulting in the most well-crafted acceptance of the evening as she thanked booksellers, sales reps and the former publisher of Touchwood, **Pat Touchie**, who was the first person to read her manuscript.

"I knew Bill Duthie," she said, "and he wouldn't be here tonight. He'd be out in the hall selling books."

Carney thanked her readers, many of whom have "adopted *On Island* as their own," including her fellow islanders on Saturna. "People always say, 'I know just who you are writing about—that's my neighbour!'"

"I have an army of guerrilla publicists who move the books around on BC Ferries' shelves. One fellow wrote to say he had been on the MV Coho from Victoria to Port Angeles, so he improved



Changing Tides co-editor  
**Henry Tanaka**

the position of my book on the shelves. People tell me how many copies of *On Island* are on the Departure Bay run, on the Swartz Bay run, and so on.

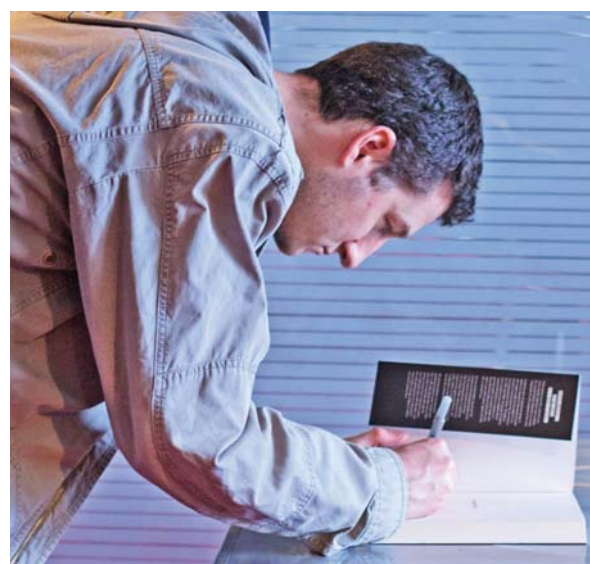
"One last anecdote: I was in Life Labs waiting for a test a few weeks ago, and the guy sitting next to me says, 'I loved your book! I have a cottage on Savary Island. I know who you are talking about!'"

Conversely, when asked to accept her Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize for her **Zero Repeat Forever** (Simon & Schuster), **Gabrielle Prendergast** told the audience she hadn't bothered to compose an acceptance speech. She ended up thanking **George Lucas** and *Star Wars*.

Newly arrived in Vancouver from Halifax, **Faith Erin Hicks** was not present to accept the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize for **The Stone Heart** (New York: First Second Publishing). Having shown up in Toronto to receive the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize earlier this year, **David Chariandy** sent an acceptance speech for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for **Brother** (McClelland & Stewart).

**Changing Tides: Vanishing Voices of Nikkei Fishermen and Their Families** (Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre) received the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize for best contribution to the enjoyment and understanding of B.C. Accepting for his co-editors **Fumio "Frank" Kanno**, **Kotaro Hayashi** and **Jim Tanaka**, **Henry Tanaka** acknowledged the contributions of local editor **Naomi Pauls** and designer **Patty Osborne**.

The Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize for the best original non-



(above) **Winners, nominees and presenters;** (left) **Travis Lupick** signs his book, *Fighting For Space* at the **Book Prizes** book table. **His nominated title won the 2018 Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature;** **Ska7cis Manuel** (below) **accepted the award for his father's Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize winner, The Reconciliation Manifesto.**



fiction literary work went to **Arthur Manuel** and Grand Chief **Ronald Derrickson** for **The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy** (James Lorimer and Company). Accepting on behalf of his late father, who died on January 11, 2017 at the age of 66, Arthur Manuel's son **Ska7cis Manuel** gave the other memorable speech of the night.

"My father was undeniably committed to Aboriginal rights entitlement," he said, "and he was a strong opponent of the Treaty Process because it extinguished Aboriginal Rights... My Dad believed that reconciliation will only be achieved when land rights are recognized, our own rights, not rights held in the name of the queen of England. He dedicated his life to that. It's an honour to accept this on his behalf."

It was supposed to be funny when Nickerson placed a framed, McDonald's employee-of-the-month photo of himself from July, 1989, on the front of the podium; less so when it remained there throughout the proceedings. The 'two-minute-max' maxm for winners' speeches did not apply to a parlour game he orchestrated, or to two gleeful presenters who doubled as his fan club.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award for an outstanding literary career in B.C. has been presented with much hoopla and bagpipes since 2004. This year the award was not presented and no explanation was given.

★

FROM 1985 TO 2001, THE B.C. BOOK PRIZES WERE MANAGED by volunteers. Now a staff of seven administers the event.

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**Mercedes Eng**  
Winner of the 2018 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for her book *Prison Industrial Complex Explodes*.

**Jónína Kirton**  
Finalist for the 2018 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for her book *An Honest Woman*.

Talonbooks

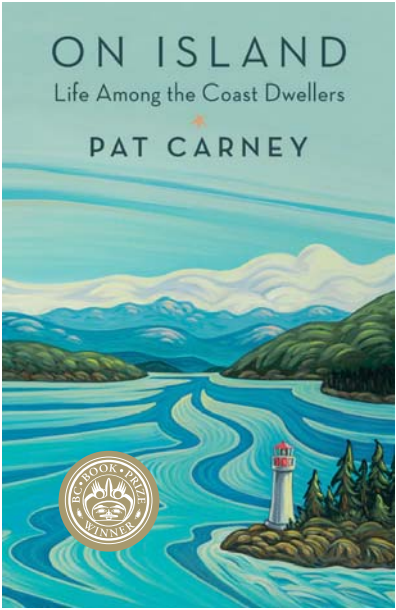
**CONGRATULATIONS** **Theresa Kishkan & Rhonda Ganz!**

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*Frequent, small loads of laundry*, finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize!

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CONGRATULATIONS  
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# PRIZES

**Mercedes Eng at the BC Book Prizes**

ISSIS LI PHOTO

## Dorothy would approve

**M**ERCEDES ENG WAS THE SURPRISE and surprised winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize at the B.C. Book Prizes for her debut poetry collection, **Prison Industrial Complex Explodes** (Talonbooks \$17.95). The ever-feisty **Dorothy Livesay** would have thoroughly approved.

Judges **Jordan Abel**, **Chelene Knight** and **Carl Leggo** were struck by Eng's juxtaposition of deeply-felt personal writing by her father and the carefully aloof, cold and impersonal rigidity of correspondence from governmental officialdom.

This work arises from the author's belief and awareness that "the incarceration of Indigenous people, refugees, and people of colour is rapidly increasing as corporations eagerly court the government for private-public partnerships to fund the building of new prisons and detention centres."

In a brief acceptance speech, Eng said her prize was, "for every prisoner out there."

*Prison Industrial Complex Explodes* was prompted and inspired by the discovery of Eng's father's prison correspondence. According to the publisher, this cache of material included letters from the federal government stating their intention to deport him because of his criminal record; letters from prison justice advocate **Michael Jackson** advising her father on deportation; letters from the RCMP regarding the theft of her father's property, a gold necklace, while in transport to prison; letters from family members and friends; letters from Eng and her brother.

Eng is currently writing a detective novel set in her grandfather's Chinatown supper club, circa 1948.

9781772011814

★  
**WENDY MORTON** STARTED THE RANDOM Acts of Poetry movement to encourage poets to read their work and give copies of their books to passers-by.

She also helped create the Planet Earth Poetry reading series in Victoria that brings live poetry to audiences on Friday nights.

Now the Sooke poet and author of six books has received the Federation of British Columbia Writers' 2018 Honorary Ambassador Award.

"Wendy was chosen this year," said **Ann Graham Walker**, president of the FBCW, "in part because of her work as creator of the Elder Project—an initiative that brings indigenous students together with their elders to capture cultural narratives and empower the students to write poems and publish them in a chapbook."

### Recent poetry books:

**Surjeet Kalsey** has worked for many years to raise awareness about violence against women and children with families who went through family violence. Her writing focuses on women's issues in **Reflections on Water** (Ekstasis Editions \$23.95).

978-1-77171-285-9



**Wendy Morton**

★  
**Patrick Friesen** touches on musical influences and the changes in language over the centuries in **Songen** (Mother Tongue \$19.95). 978-1896949642

★  
**Manolis** has released **Chthonian Bodies** with paintings by **Ken Kirkby** (Libros \$48). The White

Rock poet has also published **Shades and Colours** (Libros \$20) by **Ion Deaconescu**, translated by **Oliver Fraggieri**.

Shades 9780926763491;

Bodies 9781926763408

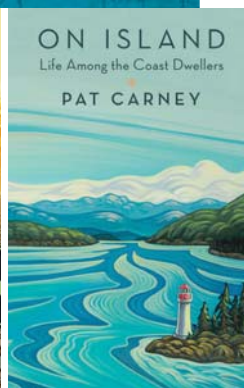
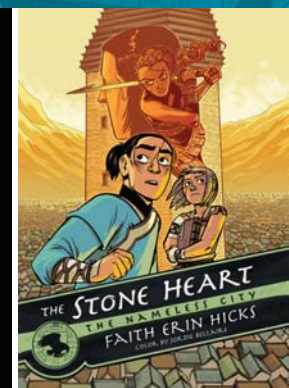
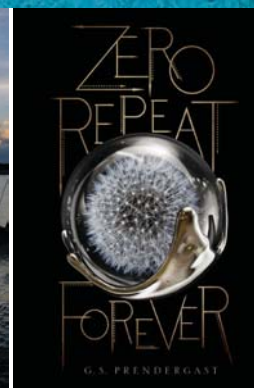
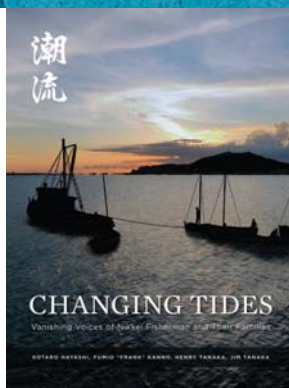
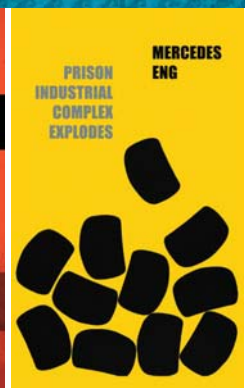
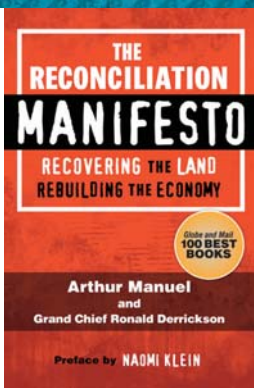
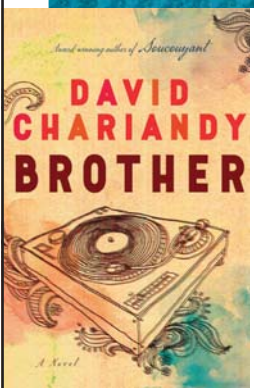
★  
**Gustav Mahler's** *Kindertotenlieder* (a 1904 song cycle for voice and orchestra) inspired **E.D. Blodgett** to write **Songs for Dead Children** (University of Alberta Press \$19.95). 978-1-77212-369-2

★  
**Laisha Rosnau** explores sexuality and inequality in the lives of Eastern European women, both contemporary and historical, for **Our Familiar Hunger** (Nightwood Editions \$18.95).

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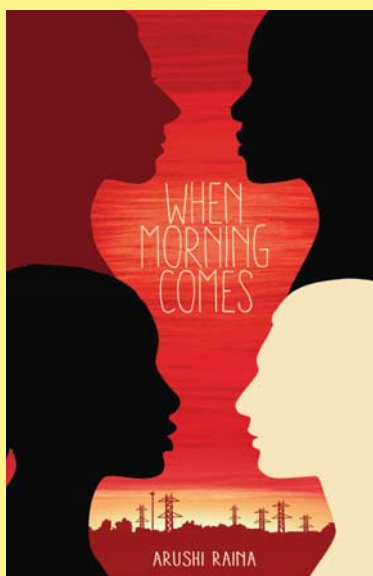
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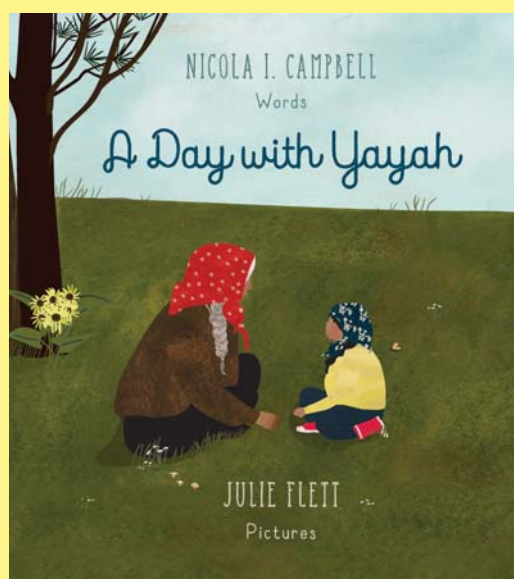
WINNER:

The Children's Africana Book Awards 2018

FINALIST:

The 2017 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People

Nicola Campbell  
Julie Flett



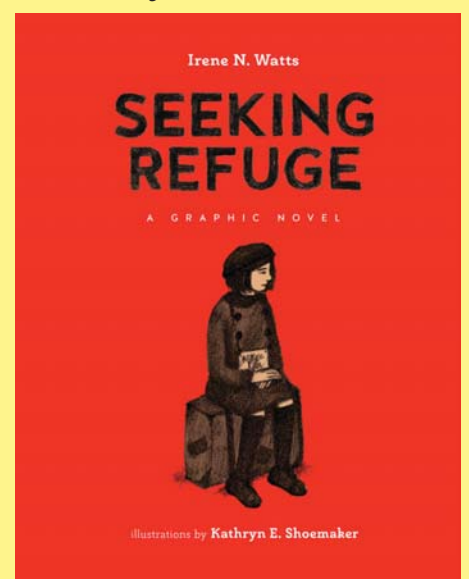
FINALIST:

The 2018 BC Book Prizes, Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Award

WINNER:

Global Read Aloud Choice 2018

Irene Watts  
Kathryn Shoemaker



WINNER:

The 2017 Vine Award for Canadian Jewish Literature

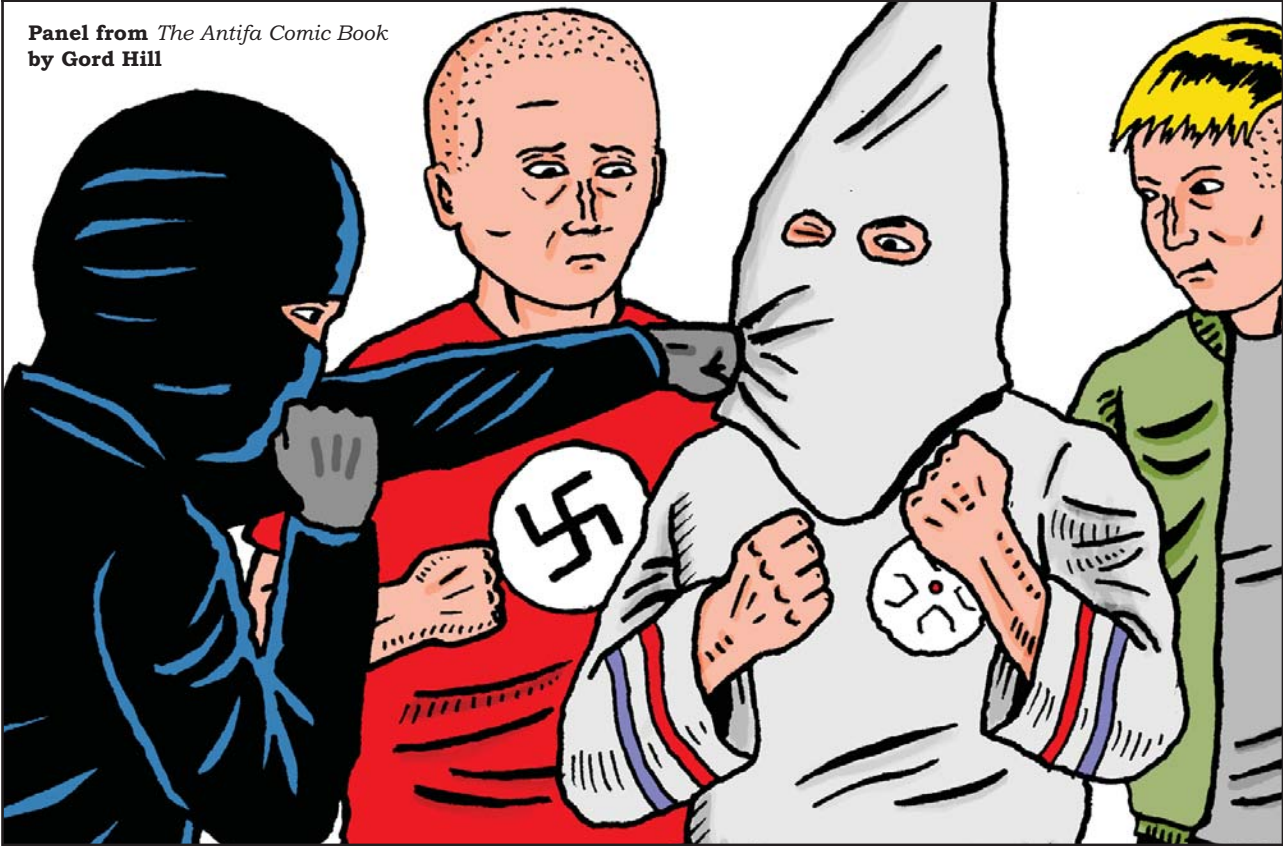
WINNER:

The Western Canada Jewish Book Prize 2018



# HISTORY

Panel from *The Antifa Comic Book*  
by Gord Hill



Widespread media coverage of the neo-Nazis in North Carolina last summer shocked many people. Some anti-fascist protestors (also referred to as antifa) fought the racist neo-Nazis back and risked their lives to do so. Nevertheless, neo-Nazis took inspiration from support received from the American president. For his part, Indigenous writer, artist and activist **Gord Hill** has created a graphic non-fiction book, **The Antifa Comic Book** (Arsenal Pulp Press \$19.95) documenting the clash of fascism and antifa movements over the past 100 years. Hill is also the author of *The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book* (2010) and *The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book* (2012), both published by Arsenal Pulp. He will be contributing a chapter to *Direct Action Gets The Goods: A Graphic History of the Strike as Political Protest*, forthcoming from Between the Lines in 2018. Gord Hill lives in New Hazelton.

978-1-55152-733-8

As a United Church minister, **Kevin Annett** came to Port Alberni in 1992. Having accused the church of complicity in "Canada's slaughter of Aboriginal people," Annett was ousted from the pulpit in 1995. By February of 1996, survivors of residential schools in Port Alberni commenced seeking legal retribution against church and state.

Kevin Annett has since worked to initiate an international war crimes tribunal into genocide against the Aboriginal people of Canada and gained support from **Noam Chomsky**.

Annett has self-published numerous books, most recently, **At the Mouth of a Cannon: Conquest and Cupidity on Canada's West Coast: A Personal Account** (Amazon \$15). It recounts his friendship with Ahousaht Chief **Earl Maquinna George** in the 1990s to prevent the sale and logging of Ahousaht ancestral land on Flores Island.

978-1983790843



**Norman Bethune**, who pioneered portable blood transfusion units during the Spanish Civil War and supported Mao against Japanese invasion, remains the most famous Canadian in China. UVic's **Larry Hannant** has contributed a chapter about Bethune's relationships with women—discounting reports that he was a womanizer—for **Norman Bethune, Rediscovering Norman Bethune** (Pandora Press \$21.95).

978-1-926599-60-1



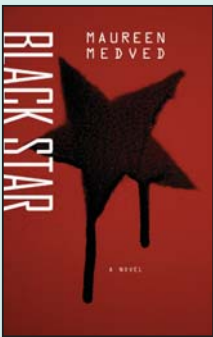
**The only known photo of Dr. Bethune and Chairman Mao, May 1, 1938**



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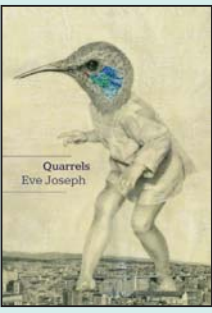
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"Jen Currin writes into difficult places with delicacy, humour and meditative grace..." —Shaena Lambert, author of *Oh, My Darling* and *Radiance*.

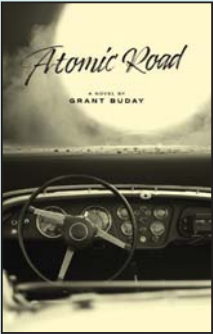


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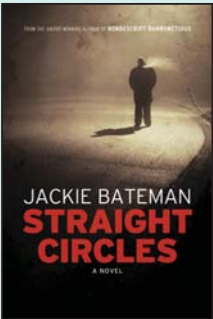
"Eve Joseph hands us the golden key that unlocks an iridescent wonder; her prose poems glisten. Following Charles Simic's dictum, she keeps them spare and tells us everything." —M.A.C. Farrant, author of *The World Afloat*



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### STRAIGHT CIRCLES a novel by Jackie Bateman

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PRaise for Bateman's previous novels:

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"Hilary Peach in *Bolt* is wildly open to the world. Though times be desperate, she's restless and alert in every moment." —Erin Moure



Fernie At War: 1914-1919  
by Wayne Norton  
(Caitlin Press \$24.95)

BY W. KEITH  
REGULAR

**F**ERNIE AT WAR: 1914-1919 by Wayne Norton has deservedly won the Community History Award from the B.C. Historical Federation for making sense of the town's volatile daily life, from 1914-1919, with in-depth information and analysis that brings Fernie's fractured and fissured history to light.

His main focus is Fernie's response to a national war emergency, highlighted by patriotic expressions, sometimes rabid, and radical unionism. Canada's war effort was characterized, as Norton recognizes, by the emotional force of extreme nationalism justified by crude propaganda that denigrated the enemy.

Over-zealous patriotism resulted in WWI internment camps for civilians—still little known by almost all British Columbians.

★  
IT ALL BEGAN ON JUNE 5, 1915, when a small delegation of Belgian—and English—speaking miners at Coal Creek, near Fernie, acting independently of their union, voiced safety concerns about working underground with enemy aliens. By June 8, they had launched an illegal strike.

The next day B.C. Attorney General (and later acting premier) **William Bowser** ordered the internment of enemy aliens. There followed four years of strife. Fernie residents and returning soldiers would be pitted against foreigners; union leaders against the rank and file; and the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company (CNPCC) against the union. This tur-



# FERNIE AT WAR

moil would lead to competition between the United Mine Workers of America and the syndicalist trade union One Big Union (OBU).

Stirring this rather large cauldron of disaffection was the hand of Bowser's political ambitions. Norton presents internment architect Bowser as ambitious and calculating, and it is difficult to disagree with this assessment.

Bowser's self-serving agenda to court favour among Anglo voters generated his internment camps. Scapegoats were needed for war and a depressed economy; and they were easily found among hundreds of foreign miners, especially Austro-Hungarians and Germans, inhabiting B.C.s

mining communities.

Bowser's actions mirrored the federal government's agenda across Canada, embodied in the War Measures Act of 1914. Individuals deemed a threat to national security were easily interned or deported. Bowser correctly guessed that miners desire for inflated pay cheques would matter more to them than union cohesion. It did not take long for Anglo workers, in league with other allied workers, such as Italians, to defy their leadership and abandon fellow unionists to their unhappy fate of internment.

Bowser's crass actions soon involved **Robert Borden**'s federal government. In the interests of national

security, Ottawa acted with its Order-in-Council 1501, deferring the right of habeas corpus and legitimating the arrest of the internees at will.

Thus, British Columbia's foray into domestic national policy at Fernie and environs became the source of much controversy. For four years, internment camps for non-Anglo labourers were deemed patriotically defensible.

Meanwhile, as Norton makes clear, miners were enlisting at such rates that a labour pool shortage resulted. Dire warnings of possible mine shutdowns prompted the CNPCC to successfully request release of some internees to remedy the labour shortfall.

Continued labour short-

**Wartime internment camp at Morrissey, near Fernie.**

ages drove the CNPCC to take the unprecedented further step of requesting a ban on local recruitment. Surprisingly, the federal ministry of labour concurred, and the federal government enacted Military Order No. 448.

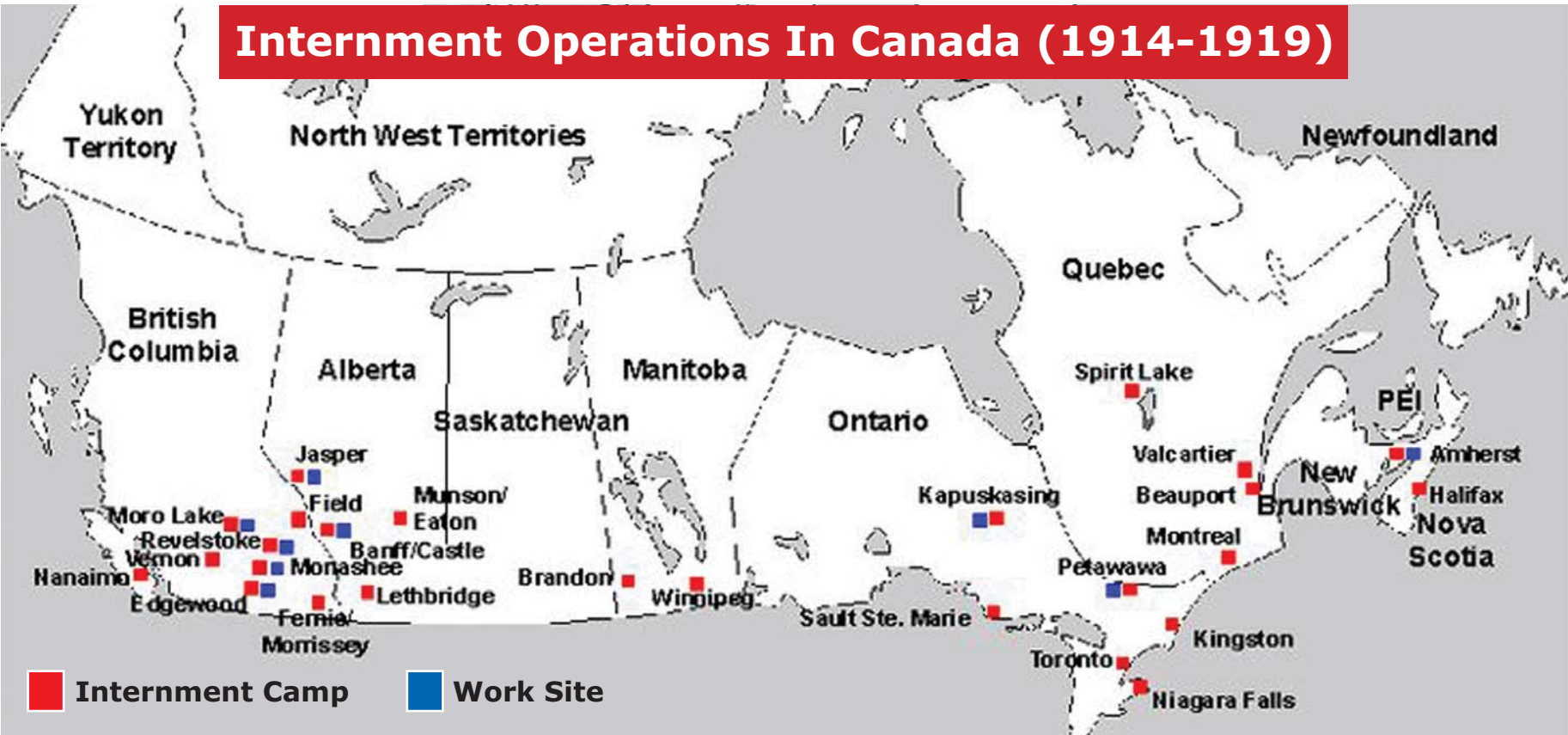
Norton asserts that this 1916 ban on local recruitment was the only measure of its kind in Canada. Only the local 107th East Kootenay Regiment was excluded from the ban.

An interesting aspect of Norton's approach for this fascinating study is his ambivalence regarding the extent to which Fernie and its history was, and still is, much neglected.

The abundant evidence Norton presents demonstrates that, by virtue of the significance of its coal-based economy and wartime disruptions around it, Fernie, a community served by two railways and a highway became both a national distraction and a disruptive force in international unionism. Norton's work is a significant contribution to contextualizing both a provincial and national perspective.

The quantity and quality of Norton's research, and the conclusions drawn therefrom, have resulted in a valuable study. The historical issues discussed in *Fernie At War: 1914-1919* are of such significance that this book desperately needed to be written. It is essential reading on the history of Fernie for both pundit and scholar. 9781987915495

*Keith Regular, Ph.D, is a retired teacher and principal in Cranbrook. His book Neighbours and Networks: The Blood Tribe in the Southern Alberta Economy, 1884-1939, was published in 2009.*







Gathie Falk

“There was a time, long ago, when I thought I would like nothing more than to be a street-corner musician. What I became, and have been for many years, is an artist. Not a singer, not a pianist, not a violinist, but a visual artist.”

GATHIE FALK

Co-written by **Robin Laurence**, Gathie Falk's new memoir, **Apples, etc.** (Figure 1 \$22.95) reflects on her nearly ninety years of life and almost fifty years as a dedicated artist, alternating chapters of autobiography and artmaking. Along the way she has received the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, the Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts, the Gershon Iskowitz Prize, the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada.

The gamut of her work is hard to define. She has created performance works involving eggs and bird feathers; paintings of flower beds and night skies; and ceramic sculptures of fruit, men's shoes and dresses. Her oeuvre is often and aptly summarized as a “veneration of the ordinary.”

978-1-77327-012-8



**SONNY ASSU: A SELECTIVE HISTORY** (Heritage House 34.95) is the first major retrospective to span the career and subversive spirit of Indigenous artist Sonny Assu.

Assu's art merges the aesthetics of Indigenous iconography with a pop-art sensibility in large-scale installations, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and painting.

9781772031706

## THE ART OF THE ORDINARY

**G**ATHIE FALK WAS SOMETHING OF A late bloomer. Her Russian immigrant father died just ten months after she was born on January 31, 1928 in Alexander, Manitoba. She grew up during the 1930s and 1940s in a Mennonite community watching her mother make cabbage rolls by hand, hearing her brothers skate on a backyard rink while she lay sick in bed, and taking music lessons courtesy of an anonymous donor. Forced to leave school



Robin Laurence

early, she finished high school by correspondence in 1947, then moved to Vancouver.

After some menial jobs, she became a school teacher during which time she re-awakened her childhood passion for art. This led her to take classes in the 1960s with **J.A.S. MacDonald, Roy Oxlade** and **Glenn Lewis**. Her first important solo exhibit was in 1968. A major book about her work was published in conjunction with her second major retrospective exhibit at Vancouver Art Gallery in 2000.



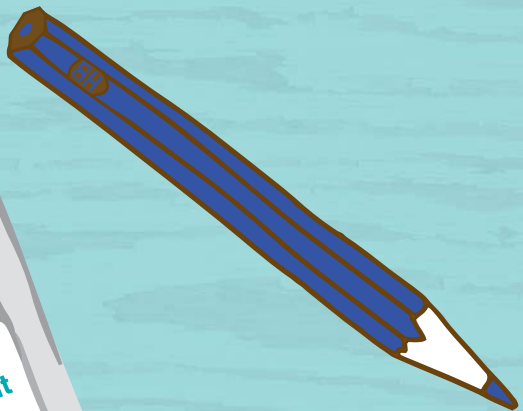
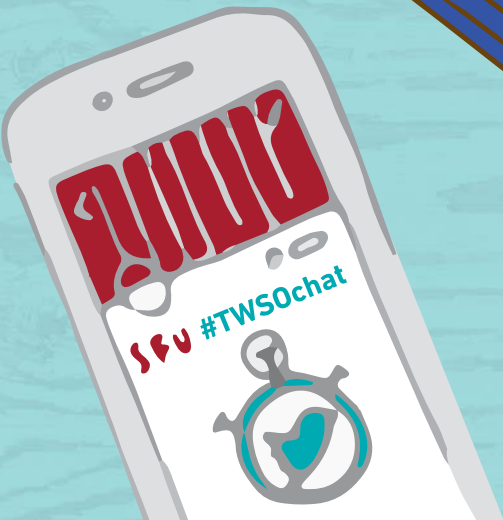
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**The Promise of Water**  
by **Judy LeBlanc**  
(Oolichan \$19.95)

BY **CAROLINE WOODWARD**

**J**UDY LEBLANC'S DEBUT collection evokes a tangible sense of place—Vancouver Island—where the sweet fragrance of cedar mingles with the murky odours of damp mould and stale cigarette smoke that can be washed away by a clean, cold blast of salt air. It is populated with fully-imagined lives, allowing us to gain insight and even feel compassion for humanity's blundering ways.

Each story has what I call an 'emotional time bomb' within it, the kind of tension we all feel when we have to attend to something we have been avoiding, like the dying of a difficult brother who has constantly sneered at your life, your house, your kids, your spouse, et cetera, ad nauseum, or the ending of a romantic relationship with someone who does not have your back and never will because they are much more concerned with the false front they present to everyone else.

There is sadness, yes, because this is a book about vulnerable children and teens and mature, usually, adults who struggle with hard knocks and gain depth and wisdom. These are characters so real they practically stride off the pages or sidle up and try to bum a smoke off you. Harsh and hopeful lives lit up by glimmering flashes of joy and towed along by undercurrents of humour.



IN 'CAN'T GO WRONG WITH AN IRIS,' we meet a sixteen-year-old mother, attempting to look after her newborn, who must contend with her own ineffectual, self-absorbed mother dedicated to avoiding responsibility, never mind not possessing the grandmotherly gene.

The basement-suite-dwelling teen must accept the fact that her own mother will bail on her yet again. Then she must face the formidable mother of the fifteen-year-old father of her baby, who at least brings two bags of groceries, a cheque and a bouquet of irises before fleeing.

His mother declares, as she heads for the door, that her son has a future, high-stepping through the muck left behind by a recent flood. I cheered on the abandoned young mom, tough, and with a bright and beautiful heart, much like an iris.



THE TITLE STORY, LIKE ALL THE SIXTEEN powerful stories in *The Promise of Water*, is grounded in place and seemingly teth-



BRIAN LATTA PHOTO

# EMOTIONAL TIME BOMBS

**Judy LeBlanc's** short stories reveal the kind of tension we all feel when we have to attend to something we have been avoiding.

ered there by indelible memories. It's about one boy's dream of swimming in the Olympics and his mother's promise to buy him swimming lessons in a pool year-round, not just Shawnigan Lake across the road in the summer.

The would-be Olympian and his brother sneer and slap and punch each other non-stop, competing for the attention of their boozehound father, who eggs them on when he returns from his well-worn chair in the local Legion.

Their mother copes by playing the perpetual comedian with rose-coloured glasses resolutely attached to her head, and by working three night shifts a week at a retirement home to keep the family fridge stocked with weiners (and flats of Lucky Lager, I surmise, to pacify her seasonally-employed husband).

Hope floats like so much

dandelion fluff and tragedy ensues.

The writing is so evocative, so pitch-perfect, I keep returning to these characters with 'what if' scenarios, wanting to bargain on their behalf for better choices and happier outcomes for them all.



LEBLANC DEFTLY SHOWS us what economic and social and educational class differences really look and sound and taste like. Her adult characters work at all kinds of occupations from group home parents to English as a Second Language teachers to loggers and miners and kayak guides. Parenting by men and by women gets its fair share of scrutiny and some of us, as the report cards indicate, have room for improvement

and that's an understatement. But we cannot help but feel empathy for those souls who are truly doing the best they can, too.

I very much enjoy, probably more than I should but I am gleefully unrepentant, how LeBlanc reveals and then skewers the privileged poseurs and slackers in these stories.

Take Darren, in 'The Confusion Technique,' who prefers to be called Thesp, for thespian. As an erstwhile co-house parent in a challenging group home, he writes a farewell note to Amy, his girlfriend of several years duration, who is in way over her young, earnest head with the streetwise teens: "I've been talking to my father again. He'll set me up if I finish my

degree: tuition and an apartment. He says I've got to live up to my potential. I know you don't believe it, but I could be anything I want. It's been a gas. We had some nice times, you and I, and likely we'll miss each other now and then. Take care and all the best."

Thesp has avoided successive house parent meetings with the social worker by wrapping himself in a carpet and getting into method acting while employed by Lug-A-Rug and waving at traffic on Blanchard Street in Victoria. Amy has been dealing with keeping hard-partying young women alive in the age of deadly drugs and morose, towering youths with knives strapped to their boots. She emails the feckless Thesp, after summing up her life to date and their relationship on her own terms, with these overdue words: "This is not a gas, you clown."



'EXPOSURE' IS A STUNNINGLY GOOD story set in the mining town of Cumberland in the first half of the last century. A miner's widow looks after her father who is dying of Black Lung or silicosis. The prevailing working man's suspicion of anyone without coal-seamed hands is compounded by racism when a photographer, known locally as 'The Jap,' dares to walk the same streets nattily dressed in a suit with a fedora on his head. 'The Jap' is very good at what he does. Everyone in the segregated town who can afford to hire him does so to photograph their weddings and family portraits. But he sets tongues wagging when he advertises for a white lady to model for him, for which he will pay cash. The miner's widow is the only woman who applies and she has a particular grievance to sort out with the photographer, who also has the nerve to call himself an artist.



THIS IS A TERRIFIC DEBUT AND A book to reread just to admire the use of language and to spend more time with some classic Vancouver Island characters. I found myself revisiting these characters as they set their sights on freedom and a better way of living and expressing their best qualities in this world.

Judy LeBlanc is a North Island College English and creative writing instructor and founding member and artistic director of the popular Fat Oyster Reading Series, yet another good reason to go to the Fanny Bay Community Hall with a pit stop at the Fanny Bay Inn, aka The F.B.I., afterwards.

978-0-88982-320-4

*Caroline Woodward is a lightkeeper on Lenard Island, near Tofino and the author of Light Years: Memoir of a Modern Lighthouse Keeper.*



**CAROLINE WOODWARD**



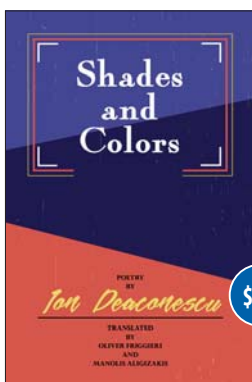


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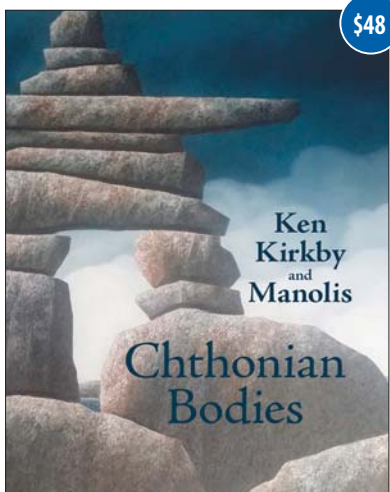


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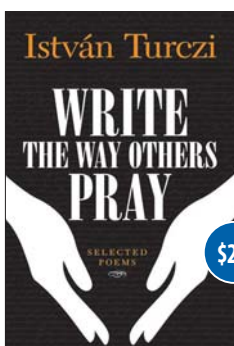
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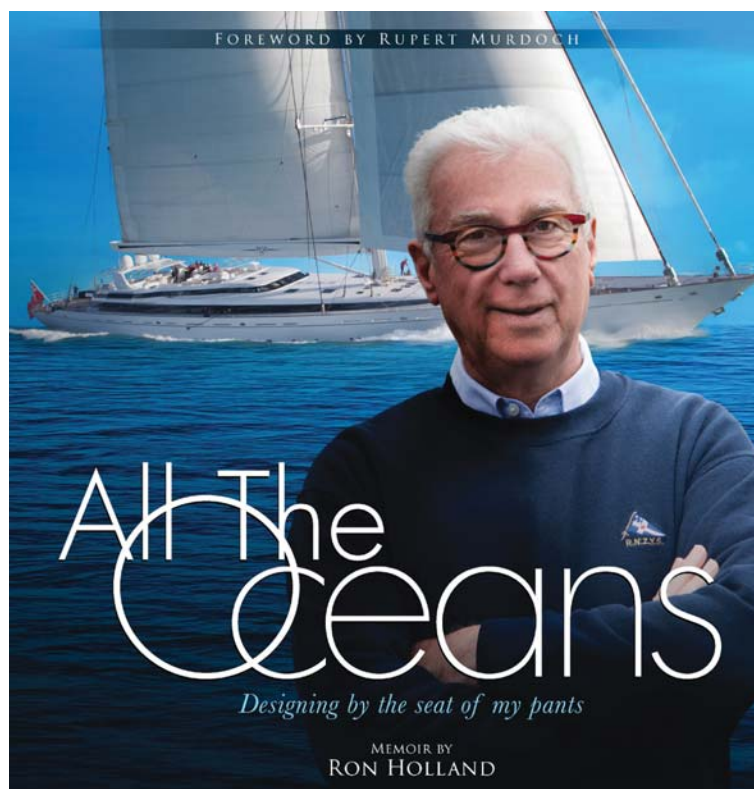


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PRAY**

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István Turczi

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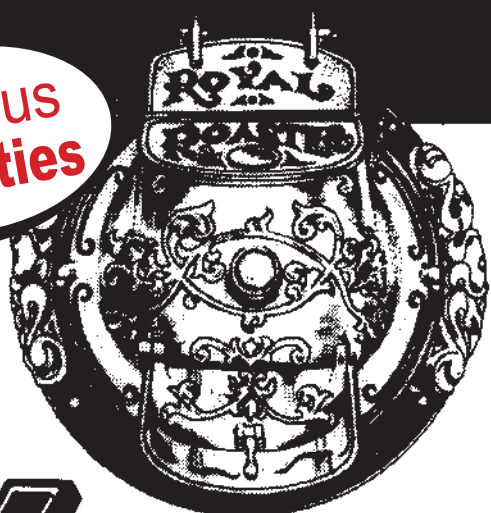
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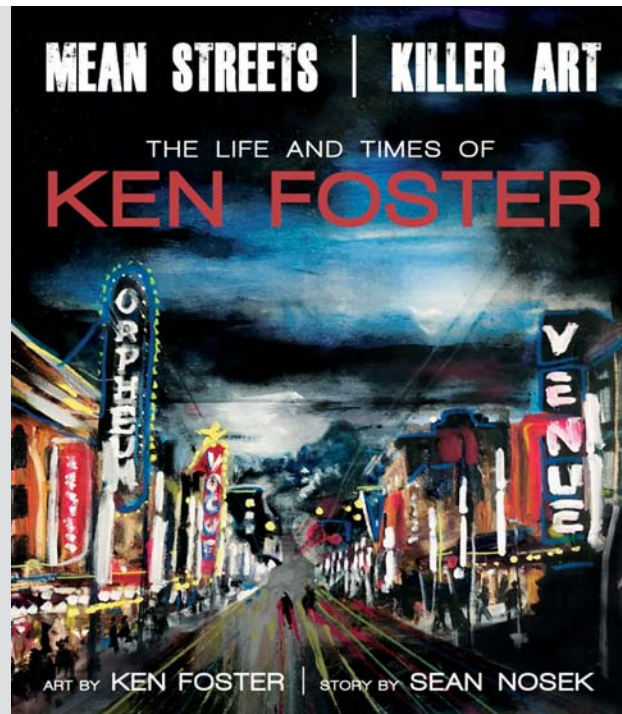
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In *Mean Streets Killer Art*, author Sean Nosek takes us deep  
inside a world of addiction, poverty, and homelessness to reveal  
the fascinating life and art of Vancouver's Ken Foster. Set on  
the edge of the DTES, Foster's story is both compelling and  
heart wrenching. The product of a highly successful Kickstarter  
campaign, the book includes 25 paintings.

"With his innate sense of composition, Ken Foster edits a  
subject to its bare bones. When that is combined with his  
uncanny understanding of 'light', the result is masterful."

from the foreword by John R. Taylor, art curator

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# Move over, David E. Kelley

If you are a parent and you think you are being responsible by allowing a teenage party in your house, with kids from supposedly good families... Well, yikes. There are legal pitfalls.

Last year **Robyn Harding's** *The Party* (Gallery/Scout \$22) was welcomed as a shud-deringly unforgettable but compulsively readable morality tale about how comfortable, suburban lives can so easily and horribly go awry.

*The Party* is a perfectly executed, mainstream novel that will almost certainly be made into a movie. Set in San Francisco, it starts with a good girl's 16th birthday party

**Her Pretty Face**  
by Robyn Harding  
(Gallery/Scout \$35)

not rated PG; it is guidance for parents.

Now she's returning this summer with **Her Pretty Face**, an equally dark tale of contemporary female friendship in the realm of **Sara Shepard's** *Pretty Little Liars*—since made into the Emmy Award winning TV series with **Nicole Kidman** and **Reese Witherspoon**, scripted by **David E. Kelley**.

Stay-at-home mom Frances Metcalfe struggles with her weight, self-esteem, and her troubled son. When he gets into an elite private school, Frances thinks she's set to emerge from her social hell. That is, until something happens that sets the whole school against her and her son, plunging Frances back into misery.

Seemingly out of nowhere, Frances is befriended by another school mom who is rich and powerful. They bond against the other elite school mothers. Of course it's too good to be true. Frances's beautiful new friend has a deeply dark past that threatens to end in tragedy for her. It involves murder. For info on Harding's other books see [abcbookworld.com](http://abcbookworld.com)

978-1-50117-933-4

★  
VANOUVER-BORN **ANDREW BATTERSHILL'S** first novel, *Pillow*, was longlisted for the 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize and shortlisted for the 2016 Kobo Emerging Writer Award. *Pillow* was selected by CBC Books as one of the Best Debuts of the year. In his new crime thriller, **Marry, Bang, Kill** (Goose Lane Editions \$22.95), we meet Tommy Marlo, a guy who mugs people for their laptops. His life as a nice guy petty criminal gets complicated fast when he rips off the daughter of a psychotic, high-ranking member of a notorious motorcycle gang. The pilfered laptop contains proof of a few gruesome murders and the location of a huge stash of money. Battershill has been the 2017-2018 writer-in-residence at the Regina Public Library.

9781773100029

★  
HOW DO YOU FOLLOW UP WINNING THE ALICE Munro Short Story Contest? In the case of **Leanne Dunic**, you write and publish your first book. **To Love the Coming End** (Bookthug \$18). The story follows the protagonist as she moves

downstairs with just a few girlfriends. With *The Party*, Harding fully and probably irrevocably graduated to mainstream fiction with a feat of superb, chilling storytelling. It's

With *The Party*, Harding fully and probably irrevocably graduated to mainstream fiction with a feat of superb, chilling storytelling. It's

between Singapore, Canada and Japan. Obsessed with natural disasters as well as emotional upheavals such as the loss of a loved one, Dunic captures what it is like to simultaneously experience global trauma, her place in history and personal loss.

Dunic is the singer/guitarist of the band The Deep Cove and also the artistic director of the Powell Street Festival Society.

978-1-77166-282-6

★  
IN **ELINOR FLORENCE'S** SECOND novel, **Wildwood** (Dundurn \$19.99), Molly Bannister, a single mother from Arizona must spend a year enduring pioneer conditions in the remote Alberta backwoods to earn her inheritance from her great-aunt's will. If she makes it through a year in an off-the-grid abandoned farmhouse, she can sell

the land to fund her four-year-old daughter's much-needed medical treatment.

But Colin, an idealistic local farmer hopes to stop her plans to sell the property to an oil company. Molly must endure a brutal winter that includes blizzards and grizzly bears, emboldened by a journal that was kept by the land's original homesteader, her courageous great-aunt.

978-1-459740-20-4



Elinor Florence



A.J. Devlin



R.M. Greenaway

★  
IN HIS DEBUT mystery, **Cobra Clutch** (NeWest \$18.95), **A.J. Devlin** introduces his fictional character "Hammerhead" Jed Ounstead who is adjusting to life after the pro-wrestling world. Hammerhead is now a bar bouncer and errand boy for his father's detective agency.

*Cobra Clutch* uses humor and gritty realism and includes a former tag-team partner, a kidnapped pet snake, sleazy promoters, and violence inside and outside the ring. "As the venom of Vancouver's criminal underworld begins to seep into Jed's life, a steel chair to the back of the head is the least of his problems."

Devlin grew up in Greater Vancouver before moving to Southern California for six years where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in

Screenwriting from Chapman University and a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from The American Film Institute. Devlin lives in Port Moody. 978-1-988732-24-4

★  
**VANESSA FARNSWORTH'S** SHORT STORY collection **The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind** (Thistledown \$19.95) features women who collide head on with chronic liars, dead grandfathers, beleaguered sons, mysterious voices, unfaithful husbands, midnight callers, spiteful sisters, and hallucinated clowns. Husbands go crazy or wayward or missing.

Farnsworth is a resident of the B.C. Interior. Her short fiction has appeared in literary journals across Canada and in the US. Her memoir, *Rain on a Distant Roof: A Personal Journey Through Lyme Disease in Canada* (Signature Editions), was published in 2013.

978-1-77187-157-0

★  
NELSON-BASED **R. M. (RACHEL) GREENAWAY'S** first novel *Cold Girl* (Dundurn, 2016) won the Unhanged Arthur Ellis Award. It was the first in the B.C. Blues Crime series featuring RCMP investigator Constable David Leith. The story begins with the vanishing of a young rockabilly singer named Kiera in northern B.C.

The second book in the series *Undertow* (Dundurn, 2017) sees Constable Leith joined by Constable Cal Dion as they go to Vancouver to solve the murders of a mother, father, and baby.

In book three of Greenaway's series, **Creep** (Dundurn, \$17.99), Constables Leith and Dion are in North Vancouver, mystified by a mauled body on the mountain—where a small boy is attacked and bitten by a man in wolf form. Constable Leith follows procedures while out-of-the-loop and rebellious Dion asks an attractive witness out on a date... It's dark in them thar hills.

978-1-45973559-0



Robyn Harding

TALLULAH PHOTO



**Black Star** by  
**Maureen Medved**  
(Anvil Press \$20)

BY JOHN MOORE

**S**IMPLE FORMULA FOR A compelling novel: show the best people on their worst behaviour.

Since universities are generally supposed to be inhabited by the best and brightest people in our culture, they've been fertile ground for ironic, darkly comic fiction.

In **Black Star**, **Maureen Medved** plows a field that has produced **Kingsley Amis'** *Lucky Jim*, **Tom Sharpe's** *Porterhouse Blue*, **Malcolm Bradbury's** *The History Man* and several satirical piss-takings by the late great **Peter de Vries**, to name but a few.

But *Black Star* resembles its ancestors like children resemble their parents; superficially. In the opening chapters, we're on a campus that seems generically familiar from both experience and fiction. The stock character of the loveable Absent-Minded Professor has long since been replaced by a faculty of dysfunctional, manipulative, careerist social and sexual misfits whose lapses of memory are deliberate strategic moves in the game of university power politics—the competition for funding and tenure.

Transmitting the essentials of scholarship to a new generation doesn't top the agenda.

Setting her story in the philosophy department of an unnamed West Coast Canadian university, (nudge, nudge, wink, wink), Medved uses a blade sharp as a box-cutter to open a Pandora's package of human duplicity.

Philosophy professors do not, as newbie undergrads often assume, study The Meaning of Life. Instead, they try to refine and define the language we use to apprehend 'reality'

## FEAR 'N' LOATHING in a place resembling UBC

**Maureen Medved's**  
novel is a "black comedy"  
on par with real estate  
bumph advertising  
timeshare condos in Hell.



JOHN  
MOORE

and—if they're very brave—to establish criteria that can be used to make ethical judgements and decisions.

*Black Star's* Del Hanks has tried to be one of those courageous thinkers. Ten years ago,

she published *The Real and the Unreal*, to positive peer reviews. For Del—now fat, forty and still single, from a family of chronic under-achievers—philosophy has been more than a scholarly discipline. It was her ticket out of Smallville, U.S.A., and the Boethius-approved consolation for humiliations endured in every other aspect of human relations. Her impending bid for tenure is more than just another career step. Tenure is the one thing that can validate her whole pathetically constrained life.

Unfortunately, her tenure bid hinges on getting a publication deal for her new work, forebodingly titled *The Catastrophic Decision*, and writing it is starting to look like one of those fateful, book-a-ticket-on-the-Titanic choices. Meanwhile, her life is being weighed in a balance by a committee of careerist creeps and feebs, all of whom are in thrall to

the department's new junior lecturer, Helene Lebec.

Supermodel gorgeous, dressed like a drug-dealer's girlfriend, author of several best-selling books on the ethics of animal rights and other hot-button topics beloved of the politically correct and a frequent TV talk show guest, Lebec exudes star-quality.

Thirty years ago, she would have been

snubbed as "a popularizer" in any academic common room for "dumbing-down the discipline." In today's pervasive climate of celebrity, she's an ornament to the faculty, instantly possessed with massive clout that may be ephemeral, but that's all the more reason to use it fast, while it lasts.



NO SPOILER ALERT INTENDED, BUT TO describe Medved's novel as a "black comedy" is on par with real estate bumph advertising timeshare condos in Hell. After an ironically amusing, deceptive start, *Black Star* chronicles the descent of a fragile, brittle personality, who has put her few eggs in the only basket she has, into the nightmarish pandemonium of total paranoia.

Del's manuscript of *The Catastrophic Decision* becomes increasingly surreal, mirroring her personal disintegration as she makes one irrational bad choice after another.

**In *Black Star*, Maureen Medved takes on one of the toughest challenges in fiction: creating a main character, a protagonist, with whom it is almost impossible to sympathize, though we may identify with her in our most private moments.**



R. d. CRANE PHOTO

If I had to shelve *Black Star* in a library, I'd put it in the horror/psychological section, rubbing jacket shoulders with such modern gothic classics as **Robert Bloch's** *Psycho* and the collected works of **Stephen King**. (I'd put **Margaret Atwood's** *The Edible Woman* on the same shelf. Just saying.)

In *Black Star*, Medved takes on one of the toughest challenges in fiction: creating a main character, a protagonist, with whom it is almost impossible to sympathize, though we may identify with her in our most private moments.

Del's nemesis, Helene Lebec, like so many of the fifteen-second celebrities our culture spews into the limelight, is easy to despise. Del is a more ambivalent character; the brainy goof, the smart nerd, solipsistic, bereft of social skills but possessed of a sharp mind and cutting tongue, easier to hate than to even casually like.

Few authors have dared to give such characters more than a supporting role as designated villains. The narrator of **Ford Maddox Ford's** *The Good Soldier*, is a contemptible, passive cuckold. **John (Rumpole of the Bailey) Mortimer** wrote a trilogy of novels around Lesley Titmuss, a traitor to his working class origins who rises politically by embracing the Tory politics of his masters. Mortimer also wrote *Dunster*, the definitive novel about the quintessential bad friend, whose narrator is a feeble in the mould of Ford's narrator.

In Del Hanks, Medved has created an unlikeable but not unadmirable character and invites us to care about her... or not.

That would be an ethical decision. See your PHIL 102 instructor on Monday.

978-1-77214-112-2

*John Moore continues to write better than most people in the human race, from Garibaldi Highlands. He has a collection of essays forthcoming and he has tenure in his garden.*

### new from NIGHTWOOD EDITIONS

**Listening to the Bees**, a unique blend of science and poetry, is a collaboration between two writers who share a passion for bees and for language.

BY **Mark L. Winston** AND **Renée Sarojini Saklikar**  
ESSAYS AND POEMS

**Our Familiar Hunger** is a book about the strength, will, struggle and fortitude of generations of women and how these things interact, inform, transform and burden. BY **Laisha Rosnau** • POETRY

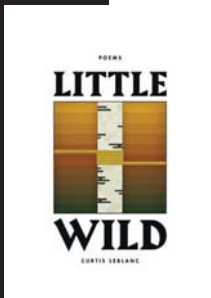
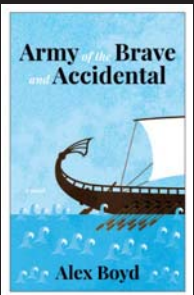
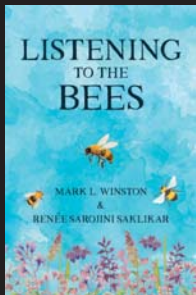
**After the Hatching Oven** explores chickens from every conceivable angle; it looks at chicken politics, antics, pretenses and pleasures.

BY **David Alexander** • POETRY

**Army of the Brave and Accidental** is a funny retelling of *The Odyssey*, set in twenty-first century cities including Toronto and New York. BY **Alex Boyd** • FICTION

**Little Wild** explores the performance of contemporary masculinity, with a focus on how toxic masculinity relates to mental health, aggression, substance abuse and crisis of identity.

BY **Curtis LeBlanc** • POETRY





**On the Up** by Shilo Jones  
(M&S \$24.95)

ON THE HEELS OF **Charles Demers'** comic crime novel about the effects of escalating real estate prices in Vancouver's Lower Mainland, *Property Values* (Arsenal, 2018), comes newcomer Shilo Jones' equally dark critique, **On the Up**, a tense tale of three disparate characters who are involved in a shady condo property deal in North Vancouver.

Coping with PTSD, Mark is an Afghanistan war veteran who has left his wife and child in Thailand in order to repay a debt to his nefarious brother.

Although he's co-founded an environmental investment company, Carl "Blitzo" Reed is a drug addict who, like a huge percentage of Vancouverites, is caught up in the ecology of greed.

Jasminder is an aspiring investigative journalist who tries to stay high-minded within the realty-mad maze of Vancouver's otherwise micro-managed streets, while sharing a one-bedroom apartment with her mom.

After a rural upbringing, Shilo Jones attended high school in the Lower Mainland and tried UVic's creative writing program before he realized it would be a better idea to first grow up and have something worthwhile to say. So he used his hands to work as a tree planter and stonemason.

After getting a BFA in Visual Art and Cultural Theory from SFU, during which time he contributed essays to gallery catalogues in Vancouver, he travelled extensively with his wife in Asia and



# CRIME & REAL ESTATE

**Shilo Jones** could very well become the best novelist ever born in Bella Coola.

Africa, enrolled in UBC's MFA program and then got picked up by the Dean Cooke Agency in Toronto. As a stay-at-home father in Kelowna, he has expressed an increasingly common love/hate relationship with Vancouver within

a novel that is pitched as a blend of **Quentin Tarantino** and **Elmore Leonard**. If you can't play in the high stakes poker game, disparaging it comes naturally. But he says he misses living in Vancouver.

978-0771049101

## CURATOR OF THE STRANGE

Archivist and curator **Susannah M. Smith** of Vancouver says her storytelling influences include visual artists, photographers, illustrators, filmmakers and fashion designers. "I admire writers who break the rules," she says, "who create forms that are truly novel, who make me feel like anything is possible." As a follow-up to her debut novel, *How the Blessed Live* (Coach House, 2002), she has devised a curiosity cabinet of interconnected galleries for **The Fairy Tale Museum** (Invisible Publishing \$19.95).

Ranging from grotesque to endearing, Smith's subjects include bird-headed lovers, a cyborg cyclops, revolutionary ventriloquists' dummies, Eros and Thanatos and a narcoleptic vampire. Her eclectic blend of influences includes W. G. Sebald, Audrey Niffenegger, the Brothers Quay, Banana Yoshimoto, Walter Benjamin, Franz Kafka, Peter Carey and Anne Carson.

978-1-988784069



**SUSANNAH M. SMITH:** "I always carry a small notebook with me to capture impressions and story fragments as they arise. At last count, there was a total 25 notebooks."

## REMOVING HURT

**Rejoice: A Knife to the Heart** by **Steven Erikson**  
(Promontory \$29.95)

MOST WRITERS AT THE outset of their careers are intimidated by the blank page.

Victoria-based **Steven Erikson** had to over-step a Canadian orthodoxy that he calls the Blank Wall.

"I ran face-first into that wall rather early on," Erikson writes, on his website, "in the company of that high-brow institution of exclusivity known as CanLit (an amorphous Canadian entity of 'serious' literature as promulgated primarily by the Canada Council, writing departments at universities, *The Globe and Mail*, provincial granting agencies and CBC Radio)."

Since those early days of tentativeness, Erikson, a former archaeologist and anthropologist has published a ten-novel, three-million-plus-words,

## CRIME & WATER

**Give Out Creek** by **JG Toews**  
(Mosaic Press \$24.95)

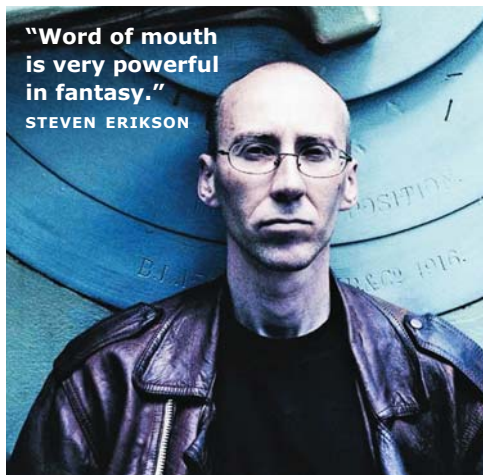
A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF Nelson, **JG (Judy) Toews** was born on Salt Spring Island and raised in North Vancouver. A graduate of UBC, she is a former teacher, nutritionist, columnist, and non-fiction author. Set in Nelson, her debut novel **Give Out Creek**—prior to publication—was shortlisted for the best unpublished first crime novel by the Crime Writers of Canada in 2016.

Having returned to a 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, Stella is drawn into the investigation despite a complicated history with the police officer in charge.

Stella struggles to hold her family together following the death of a second woman who was a suspect in the initial investigation. Ultimately, she will have to find the courage to overcome her intense fear of water in order to help solve the murders.

978-1-77161-305-7



"Word of mouth is very powerful in fantasy."  
STEVEN ERIKSON

speculative fiction series, *The Malazan Book of the Fallen*, beginning with *Gardens of the Moon* in 1999.

His latest novel **Rejoice: A Knife to the Heart** opens in Victoria with the apparent UFO abduction of sci-fi writer Samantha August as she walks down a busy street.

But she wakes up in a small room, hearing a male voice. The story spreads worldwide—and beyond—as Erikson considers what the world would be like if our ability to hurt one other was removed.

Erikson has also undertaken a separate but related prequel trilogy, *The Kharkanas Trilogy*, that started with *Forge of Darkness* in 2012.

978-1-77374-012-6



**Euclid's Orchard  
and Other Essays**  
by **Theresa Kishkan**  
(Mother Tongue \$22.95)

BY **CATRIONA  
SANDILANDS**

**T**HIS BOOK'S FIRST essay, "Herakleitos on the Yalakom," is so personal that it is almost painful to read.

It is a daughter's frank letter to a very difficult, sometimes downright hateful parent who is more concerned with knives and fishing tackle than the affections and aspirations of his daughter and sons.

His is a "legacy of diminishment." Later in the book, **Theresa Kishkan** softens slightly by allowing into her relationship with him the fuller family picture of brothers, mother, and the different places where they lived when she was a child.

In "Poignant Mountain," for example, set in Ridgedale where he worked at CFB Matsqui, his violence is still present, but only as a small, almost matter-of-fact moment in her rich depiction of the tastes, smells, sites, and events of her remembered life there: the sharp taste of buttermilk and the creamy yellow of pancakes from neighbouring farms.



**Theresa Kishkan: bluebottles, leaf beetles, greasewood and cocklebur.**

Kishkan also softens toward her father by giving him a context in the struggles of his parents, poor immigrants from what is now the Czech Republic, to make a life for themselves and their surviving child in the harsh, dry landscape of Drumheller in the early twentieth century.

As she discovers on a trip to the Alberta Provincial Archives, her paternal grandparents were not, as she had thought, homesteaders: her father "never knew or never

told that the family home was a shack in a former squatters' settlement."



*EUCLID'S ORCHARD* IS FULL OF Theresa Kishkan's arresting descriptions of the material details of places such as her home on the Sechelt Peninsula and, of course, her orchard, lovingly planted and eventually failed in the face of the deer and bears that have, in the end result, a more vigorous claim to the harvest than she does.

Near Victoria, she recounts an exquisite memory of "an abandoned house completely knitted into place by honeysuckle and roses."

**Intensely personal,  
even heated,  
Theresa Kishkan  
writes about her  
fraught relationship  
with her parents,  
especially her father.**

Near Drumheller, she sings the prairie: "turn, turn, bend the song to the roadside plants... free verse composed of crane flies, dragonflies, bluebottles, broad-bodies leaf beetles, greasewood and cocklebur."

And near her home, she concludes with the cries of coyotes: "lilting joyous youngsters unaware that a life is anything other than the moment in the moonlight, fresh meat in their stomachs, the old trees with a few apples and pears too small and green for any living things to be interested in this early in the season."



ALTHOUGH THE FINAL ESSAY, "Euclid's Orchard," mentions several different mathematical concepts in order to explore the intertwinements of trees, coyotes, and generations of a family—Euclidean axioms and postulates, Pascal's triangle, and most beautifully the Fibonacci numbers that are so abundantly manifest in the natural world—the overwhelming sense of the book is that attentive presence in the world requires "departing from... logical usage to urge the reader to emotional and intellectual discovery": looking, sideways, at the trees we otherwise can't see.

Life's patterns may be intricate and exquisite, but it is the unpredictable, intimate details of the past and present that create a life: a father's fishing knife, a mother's new suit, a grandmother's hands, the anticipation of an egg salad sandwich, a cherished family wisteria by the west-facing deck.

After searching for the meaning of Euclid's orchard, sometimes the most important thing you are left with is the smell of apples cooking in your kitchen.

9781896949635

*Catriona (Cate) Sandilands is a professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University.*

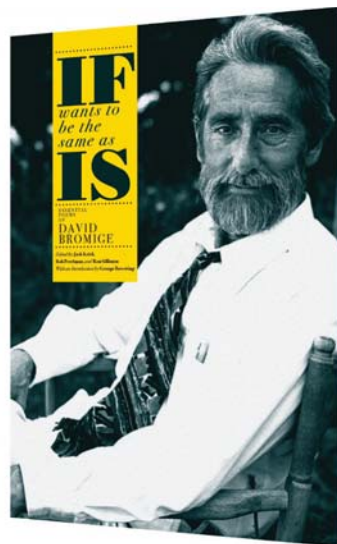
## if wants to be the same as is

**Essential Poems of David Bromige**

Jack Krick, Bob Perelman, Ron Silliman, eds.  
Introduction by George Bowering

"A poet of enormous intellect, humor and innovation."  
—Kathleen Fraser

"Among the three or four most significant writers of his generation."  
—Michael Davidson



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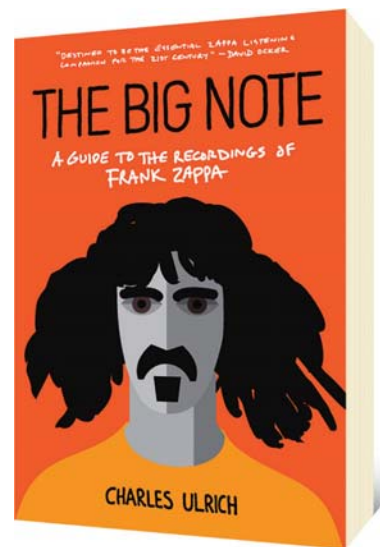
## The Big Note

**A Guide to the Recordings  
of Frank Zappa**

**Charles Ulrich**

"Destined to be the essential Zappa listening companion for the 21st century."  
—David Ocker

"The next best thing to being in the room with Frank."  
—Scott Thunes



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## Some End/ West Broadway

**George Bowering/  
George Stanley**

"Caustic and clever... Often beautiful and always witty."  
—Jonathan Ball,  
*Winnipeg Free Press*

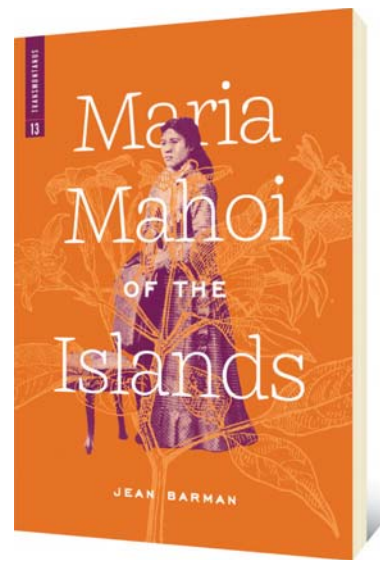


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## Maria Mahoi of the Islands

**Jean Barman**

An important chapter in the story of Salt Spring Island, and a classic in its field, *Maria Mahoi of the Islands* is an important document on the history of Indigenous Hawaiians & their early presence across the Pacific Northwest.



newstarbooks.com





The Plague by Kevin Chong  
(Arsenal Pulp \$19.95)

BY JOAN GIVNER

IN 1947, ALBERT CAMUS published *La Peste* (*The Plague*), sometimes called his “resistance novel.” Set in the Algerian coastal city of Oran, it channelled his experiences during the German occupation of France into a fiction about a community in the grip of a deadly epidemic.

Seven decades later, Kevin Chong pays homage to Camus in *The Plague* by replicating the dramatic structure and some of his characters in a novel that takes place in “Vancouver, Canada in the near future.”

Like the earlier work, Chong’s new novel starts with the appearance of a few dead rats. Their number rapidly increases, and before long the deadly bacillus bacteria spreads to the human population.

A brief period of calm follows as civic officials issue false reassurances until the extent of the danger can no longer be concealed. A quarantine is then imposed with road blocks set up on all highways and bridges, trapping everyone within the immediate metropolitan area.

This epidemic lasts for four months and kills over 1,400 people.

Chong’s novel follows three main characters—Bernard Rieux, a doctor; Raymond Siddhu, a journalist who is prevented from returning to his wife and small sons in the suburbs; and Megan Tso, an

A classic French text invigorates a new tale of rats overtaking Vancouver. **Joan Givner** compares **Kevin Chong’s** *The Plague*, set in Vancouver, with **Albert Camus’** work of the same name published seventy years earlier.

expert on funerary rites from Los Angeles, stranded during a tour to promote her book, *The Meaning of Death*. As their lives become entwined, a cast of minor characters includes their families and friends, as well as the city’s mayor, a smooth-talking, telegenic, former Rhodes scholar.

It’s up to the reader to decide the extent to which Chong is intending to draw direct parallels to world class Vancouver.

Everyone marooned by the disease is completely changed. One group forms a bond to relieve the suffering of their neighbours. Others devote their energies to escape plans, or devise ways to profit from the situation by smuggling people out and scarce commodities in.

The mayor, whose polished exterior has been demolished by the exposure of his scandalous past, is one of the few who is redeemed by his first-hand exposure to suffering.

★  
CHONG’S NOVEL IS A COMPELLING work of storytelling, which stands on its own feet, quite independent of Camus’ work. At the same time, a familiarity with the source adds another dimension of complexity. Despite a long history of literary borrowing, this practise is not universally appreciated.

While a novel about a character in a classic work by **Charlotte Bronte**,

**Dickens**, or **Henry James** is treated respectfully, the extensive use of structure and plot is suspect. When **Graham Swift’s** *Last Orders* won The Booker Prize, he was accused of plagiarizing **Faulkner’s** *As I Lay Dying*. Earlier this year a *New Yorker* story that replicated **Mavis Gallant’s** story *The Ice Wagon Going Down the Street* caused a flurry of angry letters.

**Jane Austen** seems to be the current favourite for clumsy riffs. Of course, much depends on whether the execution of the second text is skilful or weak. As **T.S. Eliot** noted, a good writer improves or at least makes different what he borrows.

Chong’s novel illustrates the innovative use of a classic text at its best. One of the striking features of Camus’ novel is the distinctive voice of his narrator: a conscientious witness of a great tragedy, striving for reportorial objectivity but often ironic. Chong echoes the tone; his narrator becoming at times admonitory as he cautions, “Don’t misinterpret [the characters] as archetypes.”

On another occasion, he provides a mock trigger-warning to those who might be traumatized by the harrowing description of a child’s gruesome death: “We therefore kindly invite those who might

feel most sensitively about this material to either skip the remainder of this chapter or read it at arm’s length.”

Camus’ trademark sense of the absurd is evident in his description of a municipal clerk who is an aspiring writer, unskilled but obsessive. As tragic and heroic events unfold around him, he endlessly polishes the first sentence of a novel set in an exotic place he has never seen. Chong, likewise, has a would-be author

who gets no further than the endless revision of an opening sentence.

Chong provides a new perspective on Camus’ characters and incidents by transposing them into a different context. Sometimes similar details spark totally divergent situations, as do the following notes pinned to an apartment door.

Camus’ character named Cottard: “Come in, I’ve hanged myself.”

Chong’s character named Farhad Khan: “I have killed myself. Call the police. You do not need to see this.”

Both these two aforementioned characters find a nefarious purpose during a time of universal devastation. When normalcy returns and deprives them of their newfound purpose, they become deranged and violent. Yet



JOAN GIVNER

these two, fully-realized characters have little personal resemblance to each other. Coming from different ethnic backgrounds, they have individual histories and their own eccentricities and speech patterns. It’s just one example of how Chong’s novel manages to be similar but also different.

Whereas Camus pays little attention to the Arab population of his city, or to the dispossessed, Chong is sensitive to issues of ethnic and gender diversity, extending his cast of characters to include more women.

At the same time, he casts a sharp critical and/or satirical eye on foibles of his own time such as the tourist industry promoted by the Chamber of Commerce and the by-now de rigueur author book tour.

Chong’s novel shows that for all the long and chequered history of literary borrowing, it can still lead to a rediscovery of the original text, as well as yielding an independent work that is fresh and compelling.

The total effect of all these parallels and divergences is to set up a kind a dialogue between the two novels. Since Chong is writing in a later age, his variations act as a two-way critique of then and now. For instance, while both novels are set in colonized places, Chong’s greater awareness of this fact is made clear in his opening, possibly tongue-in-cheek, sentence:

“The remarkable events described in this narrative took place in Vancouver (traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations) in 201...”

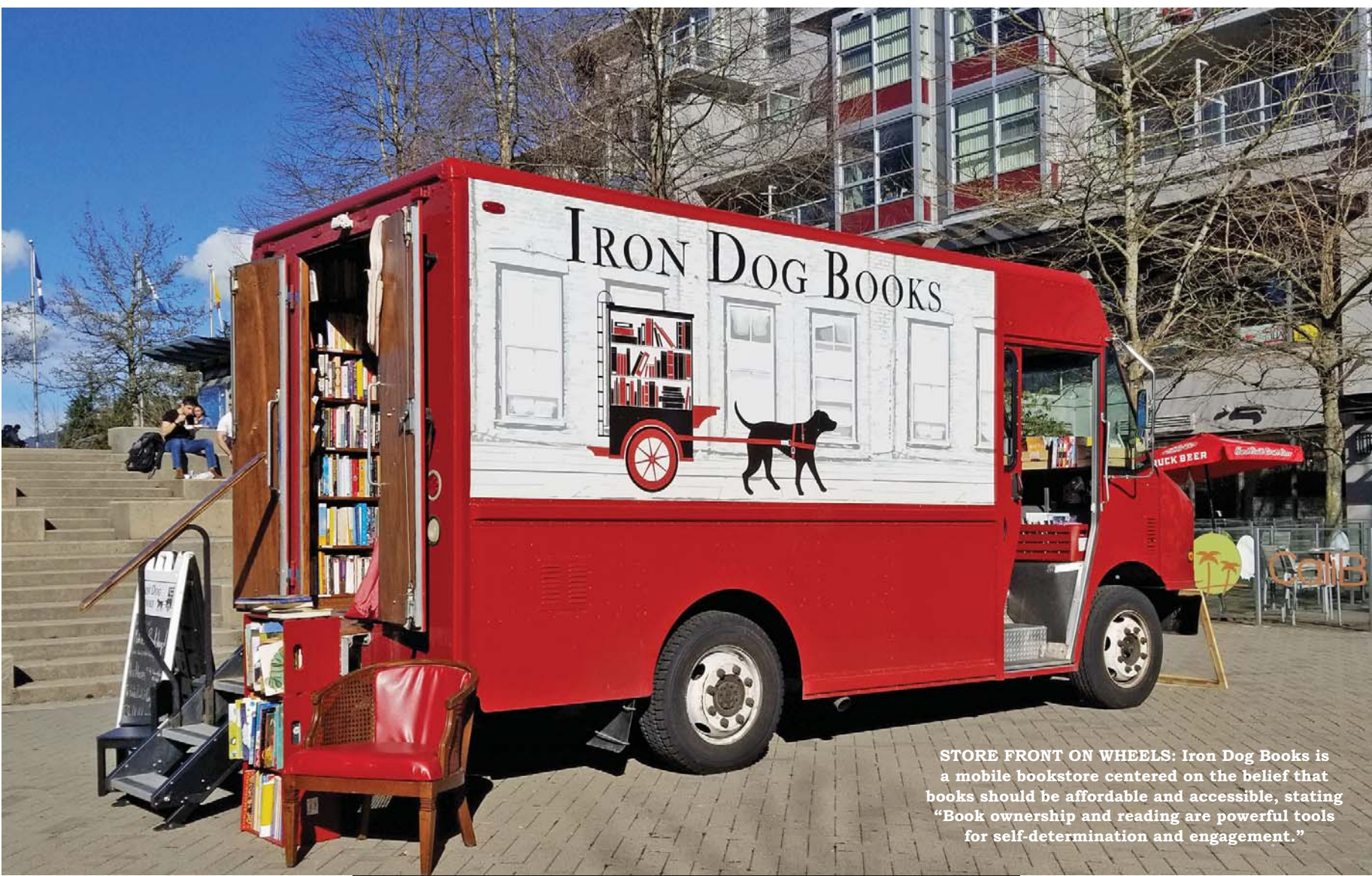
978-1551527185

Joan Givner, now based in Victoria, has continually provided first-rate reviews for longer than we can remember.



ANDREW QUERNER PHOTO





STORE FRONT ON WHEELS: Iron Dog Books is a mobile bookstore centered on the belief that books should be affordable and accessible, stating “Book ownership and reading are powerful tools for self-determination and engagement.”

## A is for Atleo

FIRST, THERE WERE FOOD TRUCKS. NOW ALONG rolls Iron Dog Books, a mobile bookstore, using a 2006 Freightliner step van, owned and operated by Indigenous partners **Cliff** and **Hilary Atleo** (Nuu Chah Nulth/Tsimsian and Anishinaabe/Scottish racial backgrounds). Burnaby-based and dedicated to serving Tsleil-Waututh, Skwxwú7mesh and Musqueam territories (metro Vancouver), Iron Dog Books now attends literary functions such as the book launch for **Pat Ardley’s** memoir, **Grizzlies, Gales and Giant Salmon: Life at a Rivers Inlet Fishing Lodge** (Harbour \$24.95).

978-1-55017-831-9

## B is for Burton

DURING MORE THAN 30 YEARS AS A POLICEMAN, **Ken Burton** served as a captain on RCMP coastal patrol vessels including St. Roch II. Starting from Unalaska in Alaska and carrying on through the Northwest Passage to Greenland, Burton explores the highlights, histories and people along the way in **Canada’s Arctic: A Guide to Adventure through the Northwest Passage** (Pacific Marine \$49.95). In 2000, Burton captained a non-ice-reinforced vessel on a continuous circumnavigation of the North American continent in one season.

978-0-919317-58-1

## C is for Campbell

ALL MEMBERS OF **OLGA CAMPBELL’S** MOTHER’S family were murdered in the Shoa but no details emerged. Campbell’s self-published **A Whisper Across Time** (Jubaji Press \$32) combines prose, art and poetry to revive the story of one family’s experience of the Holocaust. Described as a healing ritual and “a Shamanic Soul retrieval,” *A Whisper Across Time* will be launched with an art show on Nov. 15 at the Gertrude and Sidney Zack Gallery as part of Vancouver’s Jewish Book Festival.

978-0-9812911-2-3

# WHO’S BRITISH • COLUMBIA WHO

## D is for Deadmonton

EDMONTON SNAGGED ITSELF THE TITLE OF “Murder Capital of Canada” in 2011 with 48 of its citizens coming to a sudden and violent end. Back in 1938 the “City of Champions” also scored a higher per capita murder rate than Chicago. In **Deadmonton: Crime Stories from Canada’s Murder City** (U. of Regina Press \$21.95), **Pamela Roth** of Victoria takes a look at some of Edmonton’s most notorious murders, both solved and unsolved.

9780889774261

## E is for Ellis

LAST YEAR **HEATHER ROSS**, WHO RUNS A DÉCOR boutique on Fir Street in Vancouver, published *The Natural Eclectic: a Design Aesthetic Inspired by Nature*. Now, her next-door-entrepreneur, **Jackie Kai Ellis**, owner of Beaucoup Bakery, has published **The Measure of My Powers: A Memoir of Food, Misery, and Paris** (Random House \$24.95).

In the style of *Eat, Pray, Love*, Ellis’ memoir details how her life spiralled when she suffered with crippling depression. Despite having a handsome husband, a successful career and a beautiful home, she left it all behind to travel to France, Italy and the Congo Republic. Her marriage didn’t survive her evolution, but after attending pastry school in Paris, she returned to start Beaucoup.

9780147530394



**Jackie Kai Ellis:** “When I first started writing *The Measure Of My Powers* about 2 years ago, I knew I needed to be alone to do it.”

## F is for Frie



Roger Frie

**ROGER FRIE**, A NON-Jew, was awarded both the 2017 Canadian Jewish Literary Award in the history category for his engaging memoir **Not in My Family: German Memory and Responsibility**

**After the Holocaust** (Oxford University Press \$36.95) and The Kahn Family Foundation Prize in the holocaust category at the 2018 Western Canada Jewish Book Awards. The son of German post-war immigrants who were children during World War II, Frie examines his family’s largely unspoken history, including familial links to the Nazi regime.

978-0-19937-255-3

## G is for Goodison



Lorna Goodison

ONE OF THE WORLD’S eight entirely surprised writers who received a call this year from the director of the Windham-Campbell Prizes, informing them that they had just won one of eight

\$165,000 US prizes, is **Lorna Goodison** of Halfmoon Bay. These awards worth more than \$1 million annually are conferred each September at a literary festival at Yale University in memory of **Sandy M. Campbell**, partner of novelist **Donald Windham** for 45 years. In 2017 Lorna Goodison was installed as poet laureate of Jamaica for a three-year term during a ceremony at King’s House in St. Andrew, Jamaica. She lives with her husband and fellow writer **Ted Chamberlin**.

## H is for Harrison

**KEITH HARRISON’S** NINTH BOOK, **Shakespeare, Bakhtin, and Film: A Dialogic Lens** (Palgrave Macmillan \$140.86), is a study of Russian philosopher **Mikhail Bakhtin** (1895-1975) who, while living under **Stalin**, according to Harrison, “developed bold ideas about the carnivalesque, dialogue, and the chronotope.” Harrison makes use of these concepts to help illuminate the creativity behind the global proliferation of **Shakespeare** on screen.

978-3-319-59742-3



**Keith Harrison** has written five novels and lives on Hornby Island.



# WHO'S WHO

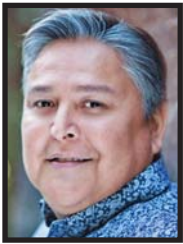
## I is for Indian Fishing

IN 1977, **HILARY STEWART** (1924–2014) wrote her most renowned book on Northwest Coast cultures, **Indian Fishing: Early Methods of the Northwest Coast** (D&M \$28.95) before the term First Nations had come into use. In more than 450 drawings and 75 photographs, Stewart shows what coastal fishing tools looked like and how they were used. Now re-printed, Stewart's illustrations of handmade fishing tools remain as impressive as ever.

978-1-77162-185-4

## J is for Justice & Joseph

**WHY INDIGENOUS LITERATURES MATTER** (Wilfrid Laurier \$19.99) by **Daniel Heath Justice** (Cherokee Nation) challenges readers to re-think their assumptions about Indigenous literature, history and politics. He holds the



Bob Joseph

Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture at UBC. Former associate professor at Royal Roads University, **Bob Joseph** discusses the draconian and oppressive effects of the Indian Act since its creation in 1876 with **21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality** (Indigenous Relations Press \$19.95)—outlining such prohibitions as entry into pool halls or soliciting funds for Indians to hire legal counsel. He is founder of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. and a member of the Gwawaenuk Nation.

Justice: 978-1-77112-176-7;  
Joseph: 978-0-9952665-2-0

## K is for Kaho'olawe

ARTIST AND ETHNOBOTANIST **T'UY'T'TANAT-Cease Wyss** is the 2018 Indigenous storyteller in residence at Vancouver Public Library, a program that was introduced in 2008.

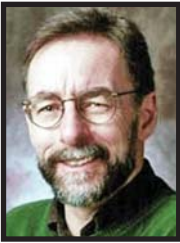
Wyss has been influenced by her diverse heritage—which includes Skwx-wu7mesh, Sto:lo, Irish-Métis, Hawaiian and Swiss—and she has co-



T'uy't'tanat-Cease Wyss

authored **Journey to Kaho'olawe**, covering more than two centuries of Hawaiian cultural exchange and inter-marriage with coastal peoples. Wyss is known for her 'plant walks' in Stanley Park and a City of Vancouver public art collaboration to 'remediate' former gas station sites using plants and Indigenous methods of sustainable agriculture.

## L is for Little



Jack Little

SFU'S **JACK LITTLE** examines how Canada came to be identified with its natural landscape in **Fashioning the Canadian Landscape: Essays on Travel Writing, Tourism, and National Identity in the Pre-Automobile Era** (UTP \$75). Little argues that the national image of Canada that emerged was colonialist as well as colonial in nature.

978-1-4875-0021-4



George Mercer with beary good friend

## M is for Mercer

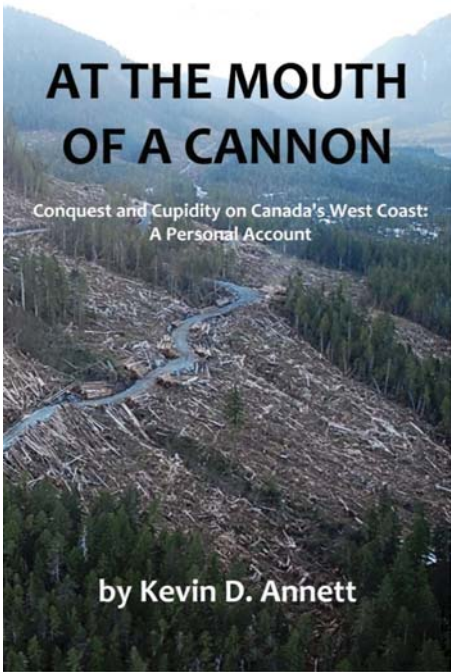
**GEORGE MERCER'S** FOURTH NOVEL, **FAT CATS** (\$19.99) is about a park warden who "goes rogue." When a cougar shows up on one of the Gulf Islands, a group of neighbouring landowners want to see the cougar tackle the overpopulation of deer on the island—but the cougar is shot and killed. Frustrated, park warden John Haffcut takes matters into his own hands and puts a cougar back onto the island. Then he has to deal with a notorious cougar tracker who is intent on killing it.

As a Gulf Island National Park monitoring ecologist, Mercer is familiar with the challenge of maintaining native ecosystems in the absence of predators. "Before I retired," Mercer says, "I was often asked what I was going to do with all my spare time.

I used to joke that I was going to do exactly what John Haffcut does in *Fat Cats*."

9780987975461;  
georgemercer.com

## A Fight for the Land and the Soul of a People



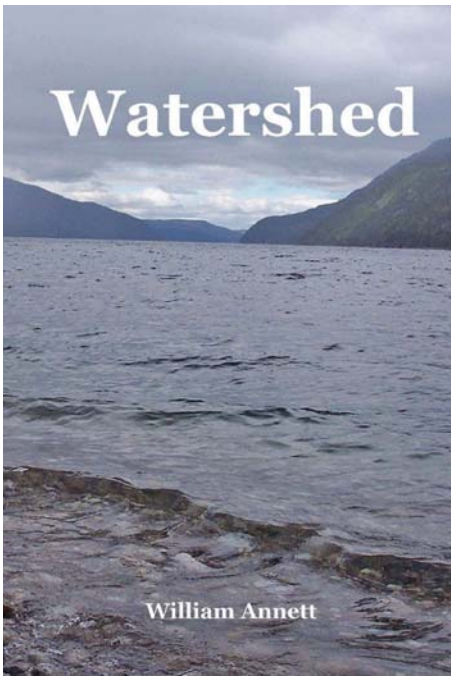
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## A New Novel by William Annett through Amazon and Createspace



**Watershed**, a new novel by former Vancouver writer William Annett, is a comic send-up of B.C.'s uncertain water export industry, told by a manic-depressive snowbird courting from Central Florida to Vancouver Island. Together with a disbarred Vancouver lawyer and a defrocked Church minister, he encounters government malfeasance, church mischief and his own watershed.

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## N is for Nine Dragons

One good detective, one bad town, one dead white woman... With its opium dens, seedy bars and sex workers, Kowloon in the 1920s is the setting for **Jovanni Sy**'s cross-cultural thriller, **Nine Dragons** (Talonbooks \$17.95), a play that recently premiered at Richmond's Gateway Theatre. Like Sy's preceding play that refracted a critique of colonialism through the artifice of a cooking show, *Nine Dragons* uses the façade of hard-boiled detective noir—think **Raymond Chandler** and **Robert Mitchum**—to examine colonialism, racism, assimilation and the clash of cultures. Nigel Dunston-Smith is the police boss who sends a white, newbie detective with veteran gumshoe Tommy Lam to investigate the Fung family who own the Nine Dragons nightclub. Theatrically, the play included video projections, fight scenes and a dramatic musical score.

9781772012040



TIM NGUYEN PHOTO

David Chen, John Ng, Toby Hughes and Duval Lang in *Nine Dragons*, Gateway Theatre

## O is for Oghma



Emisch Oghma

AFTER A SEVERE AC-IDENT caused agnosia—the inability to recognize and identify objects or persons—**Emisch Oghma** of Victoria began studying and modernizing the ancient Chinese face reading system called siang mien. By being more observant and interested in people's faces, Emisch was able to reduce the effects of agnosia, giving rise to his book, **In Your Face** (Agio \$19.95), designed to show how anyone can quickly “read” their own face, their friends, family or co-workers.

978-1-927755-54-9

## P is for People's Co-Op

“AS FAR AS WE KNOW,” SAYS **ROLF MAURER**, “the People's Co-op Bookstore is the oldest bookstore in the country, not just Vancouver. Apart from some university bookstores, no other has continually stayed in business for this long.” Started in 1945, the bookstore has been located at 1391 Commercial Drive since 1983. At a special general meeting in January, co-op members approved a plan to develop a new foundation for the future. Their stock of new and recently-released titles has been expanded and donations of books are still gratefully accepted.

## Q is for Queen's

IT WAS **GORDON CAMPBELL**'S REGIME THAT instructed ICBC to become more litigious when British Columbians try to get compensation as accident victims. Possibly it says something about his popularity, after a decade-long premiership that in-



Tracy Summerville

cluded the Winter Olympics, that the first critical book to examine his legacy isn't B.C.-published. UNBC professors **J.R. Lacharite** and **Tracy Summerville** have gathered 368 pages of critical essays for **The Campbell Revolution? Power, Politics and Policy in British Columbia** (\$31.46) from McGill-Queen's in Quebec.

9780773551039

## R is for Romain

IN HER SECOND BOOK, **NOT MY FATE: The Story of a Nisga'a Survivor** (Caitlin \$24.95), **Janet Romain** recounts the life story of her friend, **Josephine (Jo) Caplin**. Jo was forced to overcome maternal abandonment, alcoholism and epileptic seizures. After she was removed as a third grader from the care of her father, brother and uncle due to alcoholism in the family, she endured foster homes without any fam-



Janet Romain

ily contact until age fourteen. Burdened by symptoms of fetal alcohol syndrome and abuse by sadistic men, Caplin was nonetheless determined to decide her own fate and not be a victim. *Not My Fate: The Story of A Nisga'a Survivor* records her arduous and triumphant creation of a private life of peace and forgiveness.

978-1-927575-54-3

## S is for Stanley

IN HOMAGE TO A LONG FRIENDSHIP, **GEORGE Stanley** has published his own new works in a “flip book” with **George Bowering**'s latest poetry. **Some End/ West Broadway** (New Star \$18) is half Stanley's narrative and lyrical work,



RENEE RODIN PHOTO

**George Bowering** (left) and **George Stanley** launching *Some End/ West Broadway* at People's Co-Op Books in Vancouver. The bookstore's first brochure in 1945 stated: “the struggle against fascism and Nazism must be carried on. Because of this people are grasping for solutions.... The People's Co-op Bookstore will be more than just a book selling business. It will aim to stimulate the circulation of books that are socially significant.”

half Bowering's short length verses. They occasionally make reference to each other's work. Stanley's describes a panhandler: “Face unlovely/ mix of hair & skin/ emanating fury/ mouth a cave/ ‘(swallowed word) something to eat,’/ takes the proffered coin,/ “Thanks.” Stanley grew up in San Francisco where he later hung out with **Jack Spicer**'s circle of writers. Immigrating to Canada in 1971, he has known Bowering since then.

978-1-55420-145-7



## T is for Townsin

MELBOURNE-BORN ACTOR-PLAYWRIGHT **Troy Townsin** worked for the United Nations Information Centre in London prior to his B.C. arrival in 2002. Four books for his own Polygot imprint since 2008 have now been followed with five more for his new *Canadian Monster Club* series, illustrated by **Trish Glab**, \$12.95 each, for ages 4-7. Entitled **Sasquatch**, **Mannegishi**, **Wendigo**, **Memegwesi** and **Ogopogo**, these books provide short, repetitive singing parts for children as well as a “look-and-find” component. Each book contains a historical account of each mythical monster. Partial proceeds from the sale of these books, distributed via Sandhill, are donated to the First Nations Family and Caring Society.



# WHO'S WHO

## U is for UBC



Kim Campbell, 1965

FOUNDED IN 1915, UBC in Vancouver is one of Canada's largest campuses, with a total enrollment of 54,000 and an alumni of over 318,000 in 150 countries. Student leaders on campus have included **Pierre Berton**, **John Turner**, **Kim Campbell** and **Stan Persky**. **Sheldon Goldfarb's** large-format book, **The Hundred-Year Trek: A History of Student Life at UBC** (Heritage \$32.95), is an overview of student government and activism at UBC from 1915 to the present.

9781772032239

## V is for Vassilopoulos



Peter Vassilopoulos

LONG-TIME BOATING enthusiast and writer/publisher, **Peter Vassilopoulos** has simultaneously released four new titles through his Pacific Marine Publishing, three of which he wrote: **Turn of the Tide** (\$24.95), a novel that uses the apartheid era politics of South Africa as a backdrop to underwater adventure; **OOPS!: Boating's Close Encounters and Other Awkward Moments** (\$19.95); and **Adventures on the West Coast of Vancouver Island** (\$39.95). [www.marineguides.com](http://www.marineguides.com)

## W is for Woodworth

A LONG-TIME WRITER ON CLIMATE CHANGE science and activism, **Elizabeth Woodworth** has co-authored with Dr. **Peter D. Carter**, **Unprecedented Crime: Climate Science Denial and Game Changers for Survival** (Clarity \$27.95). While updating alarming environmental damage done by global warming, it lays out a case for criminalizing climate science denial. The doomsday clock has now been redesigned to include the human-caused catastrophes posed by climate change. The global threat is worsening due to "...the rise of 'strident nationalism' worldwide... and the disbelief in the scientific consensus over climate change

by the Trump administration." The authors believe criminal prosecutions could be used to repress and deter the lies of climate-change deniers.

978-0-9986947-3-3

## X is for Xerography



Onjana Yawnghe

XEROGRAPHY IS A LITERARY journal co-founded and co-edited by **Onjana Yawnghe**, also co-founder of a 'micro press' for hand-made publications called fish magic press. Yawnghe was born in Chiang Mai, Thailand, but is a part of the Shan people from Burma. She grew up in Vancouver and received the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Literary Artist in 2012. Her first poetry collection, *Fragments, Desire* (Oolichan, 2017) has led to **The Small Way** (Caitlin \$18).

978-1-987915-77-8

## Y is for Younging

GREGORY YOUNGING HAS PUBLISHED **Elements of Indigenous Style** (Brush Education/Dog Training \$19.95) as *A Guide to Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples* in respectful and insightful ways. He outlines 22 Indigenous style principles that are about process as well as appropriate terminology. He also discusses the place of Indigenous Literatures in the world of CanLit and the representation of Indigenous peoples in literature. He is currently Indigenous Studies Program Coordinator at UBC Okanagan and former assistant director of research for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

9781550597165

## Z is for Zizka

WITH MORE THAN 200 IMAGES, **PAUL ZIZKA's The Canadian Rockies: Rediscovered** (RMB \$50) is a coffee table book of lavish landscape photography that covers all the rocky mountain icons in Alberta and British Columbia: Yoho, Banff, Kootenay, Jasper, Kananaskis, Mt. Assiniboine and Mt. Robson. Zizka's ascent of the tallest mountain in the Canadian Rockies, Mt. Robson (3,954 m / 12,972 ft), resulted in some of the most remarkable images.

9781771602310



PAUL ZIZKA PHOTO

Wapta Falls, Yoho National Park, B.C., from *The Canadian Rockies*

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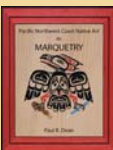

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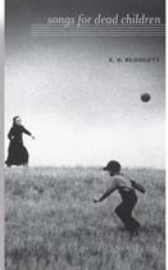
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# THE ORMSBY REVIEW

## A rebirth for serious book reviews

*New website coming in September:* **www.ormsbyreview.com**

### Published Book Reviews YEAR ONE

Jonathan Peyton, *Unbuilt Environments: Tracing Postwar Development in Northwest British Columbia* (UBC Press)

Peter O’Neil, *I Am a Metis: The Story of Gerry St. Germain* (Harbour)

Robert Griffin & Richard A. Rajal, *The Sustainability Dilemma: Essays on British Columbia Forest and Environmental History* (RBCM)

Ujjal Dosanjh, *Journey after Midnight: India, Canada and the Road Beyond* (Figure1)

Mark Leiren-Young, *The Killer Whale Who Changed the World* (Greystone)

Michael Layland, *A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island* (TouchWood)

Christina Johnson-Dean, *The Life and Art of Mary Filer: The Unheralded Artists of BC No. 9* (Mother Tongue)

Eden Robinson, *Son of a Trickster* (Penguin Random)

Adriana A. Davies, *The Rise and Fall of Emilio Picariello* (Oolichan)

Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail, *In This Together: Fifteen Stories of Truth and Reconciliation* (Brindle & Glass)

Aaron Chapman, *The Last Gang in Town: The Epic Story of the Vancouver Police vs. the Clark Park Gang* (Arsenal Pulp)

Bev Sellars, *Price Paid: The Fight for First Nations Survival* (Talon-books)

Ron Smith, *The Defiant Mind: Living Inside A Stroke* (Ronsdale)

Pnina Granirer, *Light Within the Shadows: A Painter’s Memoir* (Granville Island)

Nikki Tate, *Deadpoint* (Orca)

Picturing Transformation: Nexw-Ayantsut (Figure1)

Christian Fink-Jensen and Randolph Eustace-Walden, *Aloha Wanderwell: The Border-Smashing, Record-Setting Life of the World’s Youngest Explorer* (Goose Lane)

Dr. Anthony Kenyon, *The Recorded history of the Liard Basin 1790-1910: Where British Columbia joins the Yukon and N.W.T.* (Fort Nelson News)

David Chuenyan Lai and Ding Guo’s *Great Fortune Dream: The Struggles and Triumphs of Chinese Settlers in Canada, 1858-1966* (Caitlin)

Gwen Curry, *Tod Inlet: A Healing Place* (Rocky Mountain Books)

Catherine Holder Spude, editor, *All for the Greed of Gold: Will Woodin’s Klondike Adventure* (Washington State University)

Chris Harris, *British Columbia’s Cariboo Chilcotin Coast* (108 Mile Ranch: Country Light)

Kay Johnston, *The Amazing Mazie Baker: The Squamish Nation’s Warrior Elder* (Caitlin 2016)

Larry McCann, *Imagining Up-lands: John Olmsted’s Masterpiece of Residential Design* (Brighton Press)

Glen A. Mofford, *Aqua Vitae: A History of the Saloons and Hotel Bars of Victoria, 1851–1917* (Touchwood)

George Bowering, *The Hockey Scribbler* (ECW)

Ryan Eyford, *White Settler Reserve: New Iceland and the Colonization of the Canadian West* (UBC Press)

Rafe Mair, *I Remember Horsebuns* (Promontory)

Mike McCardell, *None of This Was Planned: The Stories Behind the Stories* (Harbour)

B. Brett Finlay and Marie-Claire Arrieta, *Let Them Eat Dirt: Saving Our Children from an Oversanitized World* (Greystone)

Red Robinson: *The Last DeeJay* (Harbour)

Peter McMullan, *Casting Back: Sixty Years of Fishing and Writing* (Rocky Mountain Books)

Serge Alternês & Alec Wainman, *Live Souls: Citizens and Volunteers of Civil War Spain* (Ronsdale)

Genevieve Von Petzinger, *First Signs: Unlocking the Mysteries of the World’s Oldest Symbols* (Simon & Schuster)

Brandon Pullan, *The Bold and Cold: A History of 25 Classic Climbs in the Canadian Rockies* (RMB).

James W. Taylor, *Guilty But Insane: J.C. Bowen-Colthurst, Villain or Victim?* (Mercier Press,)

Nick Russell, *Glorious Victorian Homes: 150 Years of Architectural History in British Columbia’s Capital* (TouchWood)

Judi Tyabji, Christy Clark: *Behind the Smile* (Heritage)

Ian Gill’s *No News is Bad News: Canada’s Media Collapse—and What Comes Next* (Greystone)

Amber McMillan, *The Woods: A Year on Protection Island* (Harbour)

Luis Fabini and Wade Davis, *Cowboys of the Americas* (Greystone)

Jon Turk, *Crocodiles and Ice* (Oolichan)

Lloyd Keith and John C. Jackson, *The Fur Trade Gamble: North West Company on the Pacific Slope, 1800-1820* (Washington State University)

Claudia Casper’s novel, *The Mercy Journals* (Arsenal)

Jay Sherwood, *Ootsa Lake Odyssey: George and Else Seel—A Pioneer Life on the Headwaters of the Nechako Watershed* (Caitlin)

Donna Macdonald, *Surviving City Hall* (Nightwood)

Wade Davis: *Photographs* (Douglas & McIntyre):

Jack Knox, *Hard Knox: Musings from the Edge of Canada* (Victoria: Heritage House)

David Pitt-Brooke, *Crossing Home Ground: A Grassland Odyssey through Southern Interior British Columbia* (Harbour)

Mary Tasi and Wade Baker, *The Hidden Journals: Captain Vancouver and his Mapmaker* (Sky Spirit)

Tristram Lansdowne et al, *J. Fenwick Lansdowne* (Pomegranate)

Colin Henthorne, *The Queen of the North Disaster: The Captain’s Story* (Harbour)

Wade Baker and Mary Tasi, *The Hidden Journals: Captain Vancouver and his Mapmaker* (Sky Spirit Studio).

Patricia Sandberg, *Sun Dogs and Yellowcake: Gunnar Mines—A Canadian Story* (Crackingstone)

Christopher Pollon, photos by Ben Nelms, *The Peace in Peril: The Real Cost of the Site C Dam* (Harbour)

Brian T. Thorn, *From Left to Right: Maternalism and Women’s Political Activism in Postwar Canada* (UBC Press)

W. Wesley Pue, *Lawyers’ Empire: Legal Professionals and Cultural Authority, 1780–1950* (UBC Press)

David Suzuki and Ian Hanington, *Just Cool It! The Climate Crisis and What We Can Do* (Greystone)

Tom Swanky, *The Smallpox War in Nuxalk Territory* (Shawn Swanky)

Daniel Francis, *Where Mountains Meet the Sea: An Illustrated History of the District of North Vancouver* (Harbour)

Christine Dickinson, Deborah Griffiths, Judy Hagen, and Catherine Siba, *Watershed Moments: A Pictorial History of Courtenay and District* (Harbour)

Betsy Warland, *Oscar of Between: A Memoir of Identity and Ideas* (Caitlin)

George Bowering and Charles Demers, *The Dad Dialogues: A Correspondence on Fatherhood (and the Universe)* (Arsenal Pulp)

Cameron, Kelton, Swedlund, editors, *Beyond Germs: Native Depopulation in North America* (University of Arizona)

Tom Sandborn, *Hell’s History: The USW’s fight to prevent workplace deaths and injuries from the 1992 Westray Mine disaster through 2016* (United Steelworkers)

Sean Karemaker, *The Ghosts We Know* (Conundrum Press).

Caitlin Gordon-Walker, *Exhibiting Nation: Multicultural Nationalism (and Its Limits) in Canada’s Museums* (UBC Press)

Charles Menzies, *People of the Saltwater: An Ethnography of the Gitlax m’oon* (University of Nebraska)

Sam Wiebe, *Invisible Dead* (Penguin Random)

Tina Block, *The Secular Northwest: Religion and Irreligion in Everyday Postwar Life* (UBC Press)

Colin D. Levings, *Ecology of Salmonids in Estuaries around the World: Adaptations, Habitats, and Conservation* (UBC Press)

Gary Geddes, *Medicine Unbundled: A Journey through the Minefields of Indigenous Health Care* (Heritage)

Ron Brown, *Rails Over the Mountains: Exploring the Railway Heritage of Canada’s Western Mountains* (Dundurn).

Tom Hawthorn, *The Year Canadians Lost Their Minds and Found Their Country: The Centennial of 1967* (Douglas & McIntyre)

Pat Carney, *On Island: Life Among the Coast Dwellers* (TouchWood)

Douglas E. Delaney and Serge Marc Durlinger, *Capturing Hill 70: Canada’s Forgotten Battle of the First World War* (UBC Press)

Michael Gates, *From the Klondike to Berlin: The Yukon in World War I* (Harbour)

Lynne Marks, *Infidels and the Damn Churches: Irreligion and*

*Religion in Settler British Columbia* (UBC Press)

Joy Kogawa, *Gently to Nagasaki* (Caitlin)

Jean Barman, *Abenaki Daring: The Life and Writings of Noel An-nance, 1792-1869* (McGill-Queen’s)

Marilyn Laura Bowman, *James Legge and the Chinese Classics: A Brilliant Scot in the Turmoil of Colonial Hong Kong* (Friesen)

Sage Birchwater, *Chilcotin Chronicles: Stories of Adventure and Intrigue from British Columbia’s Central Interior* (Caitlin)

Caroline Fox, *At Sea with the Marine Birds of the Raincoast* (RMB).

Jason Beck, *The Miracle Mile: Stories of the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games* (Caitlin)

*The Lost Vancouver: An Unexpected Art Deco Tour* (Space Gallery)

*Making Room: Forty Years of Room Magazine* (Caitlin)

Alisa Smith, *Speakeasy* (Douglas & McIntyre)

Michael Kluckner, *2050: A Post-Apocalyptic Murder Mystery* (Midtown Press)

*The Summer Book: A new collection of creative non-fiction by twenty-four BC writers* (Mother Tongue)

Andrew Scott, *The Promise of Paradise: Utopian Communities in British Columbia* (Harbour)

James Fox, ed., *The Art of Jeffrey Rubinoff: An exploration of the life and work of Canadian sculptor Jeffrey Rubinoff* (Douglas & McIntyre)

Brandon Dimmel, *Engaging the Line: How the Great War Shaped the Canada - US Border* (UBC Press)

Thora Illing, *Gold Rush Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Nellie Cashman* (TouchWood Editions)

Jack Knox, *Opportunity Knox: Twenty Years of Award-Losing Humour Writing* (Heritage)]

Andrew Struthers, *The Sacred Herb / The Devil’s Weed* (New Star)

Catherine Richardson, *(Kinewesquao), Belonging Metis* (J. Charlton Publishing)

John Cherrington, *Walking to Camelot: A Pilgrimage through the Heart of Rural England* (Figure1)

Shelley O’Callaghan, *How Deep is the Lake: A Century on Chilliwack Lake* (Caitlin)]

Diamond Jenness (Author), Barnett Richling (Editor), *The WSANEC and Their Neighbours: Diamond Jenness on the Coast Salish of Vancouver Island, 1935* (Rock’s Mills)

Barry Gough, *Britannia’s Navy on the West Coast of North America, 1812-1914* (Heritage)

Jayne Seagrave, *All the World’s a Stage: The Story of Vancouver’s Bard on the Beach* (Heritage)

Jim Cooperman, *Everything Shuswap* (Playfort)

Erik Bjarnason and Cathi Shaw, *Surviving Logan* (RMB)

Ian Gibbs, *Victoria’s Most Haunted: Ghost Stories from BC’s Historic Capital City* (Touchwood)

Robert William Sandford, *Our Vanishing Glaciers: The Snows of Yesteryear and the Future Climate of the Mountain West* (RMB)



# More Readers, More Reviews, More Often

## Published Book Reviews YEAR TWO (partial)

Michael Chong, Scott Simms, and Kennedy Stewart (editors), *Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practical Ideas for Reforming Canada’s Democracy* (Douglas & McIntyre)

Leanne Lieberman, *The Most Dangerous Thing* (Orca)

Richard & Sydney Cannings, *British Columbia: A Natural History of its Origins, Ecology, and Diversity with a New Look at Climate Change* (Greystone)

Andrea McKenzie, *War-Torn Exchanges: The Lives and Letters of Nursing Sisters Laura Holland and Mildred Forbes* (UBC Press)

Cynthia Toman, *Sister Soldiers of the Great War: The Nurses of the Canadian Army Medical Corps* (UBC Press)

Lily Gontard & Mark Kelly, *Beyond Mile Zero: The Vanishing Alaska Highway Lodge Community* (Harbour)

Ben Bradley, *British Columbia by the Road: Car Culture and the Making of a Modern Landscape* (UBC Press)

Colin Browne, *Entering Time: The Fungus Man Platters of Charles Edenshaw* (Talonbooks)

John MacLachlan Gray, *The White Angel* (Douglas & McIntyre).

Dan Jason, *Some Useful Wild Plants: A Foraging Guide to Food and Medicine from Nature* (Harbour)

Colin Coates, editor, *Canadian Countercultures and the Environment* (U. of Calgary Press)

*Wanderings of an Artist* (Royal Ontario Museum)

Nicola Levell, *The Seriousness of Play: The Art of Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas* (Black Dog)

Cecilia Morgan, *Commemorating Canada: History, Heritage and Memory, 1850s-1990s* (UTP).

Peter Babiak, *Garage Criticism: Cultural Missives in an Age of Distraction* (Anvil)

Carol Pearson, *Emily Carr As I Knew Her [1954]* (Touchwood)

Joseph William Heckman and Ralph Beaumont, *Heckman’s Canadian Pacific: A Photographic Journey* (Paris, Ontario: Ralph Beaumont and Rod Clarke)

Christine Kim, *The Minor Intimacies of Race: Asian Publics in North America* (U. of Illinois Press).

Jessica Dempsey, *Enterprising Nature: Economics, Markets, and Finance in Global Biodiversity Politics* (Wiley-Blackwell).

R.W. Sandwell, editor, *Powering Up Canada: The History of Power, Fuel, and Energy from 1600* (MQUP, 2016)

Blaise Cendrars *Speaks...* (Ekstasis) Translated by David J. MacKinnon

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

Eve Lazarus, *Blood, Sweat, and Fear: The Story of Inspector Vance, Vancouver’s First Forensic Investigator* (Arsenal Pulp)

Jan Peterson, Mark Bate: *Nanaimo’s First Mayor* (Heritage)

Michael L. Hadley and Anita Hadley, *Spindrift: A Canadian Book of the Sea* edited (Douglas & McIntyre).

Clea Roberts, *Auguries* (Brick)

Robert Stuart Thomson, *Florence, Dante and Me* (Godwin Books).

Sylvia Taylor, *Beckoned by the Sea: Women at Work on the Cascadia Coast* (Heritage)

David Starr, *The Nor’Wester* (Ronsdale)

Geo Takach, *Tar Wars: Oil, Environment and Alberta’s Image* (University of Alberta Press)

Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read, *Wolf Island* (Orca)

David Chariandy, *Brother* (McClelland & Stewart).

Miriam Matejova, editor, *Wherever I Find Myself: Stories by Canadian Immigrant Women* (Caitlin)

Patrick M. Dennis, *Reluctant Warriors: Canadian Conscripts and the Great War* (UBC Press)

Rob Wood, *At Home in Nature: A Life of Unknown Mountains and Deep Wilderness* (RMB)

Hamilton Mack Laing, *The Transcontinentalist: Or, The Joys of the Road* (Manuscript in the Laing Papers at the B.C. Archives, written in 1915)

Barbara MacPherson, *The Land on Which We Live: Life on the Cariboo Plateau: 70 Mile House to Bridge Lake* (Caitlin).

Linda J. Quiney, *This Small Army of Women: Canadian Volunteer Nurses and the First World War* (UBC Press).

Roderick Haig-Brown, re-issued *Alison’s Fishing Birds* [1980] (Caitlin), illustrated by Sheryl McDougald

Daniel Stoffman, *People, Power, and Progress: The Story of John Hart Dam and the Campbell River Power Projects.* (Figure 1)

Grant Lawrence, *Dirty Windshields: The Best and Worst of the Smugglers Tour Diaries* (Douglas & McIntyre)

Helen Raptis with members of the Tsimshian Nation, *What We Learned: Two Generations Reflect on Tsimshian Education and the Day Schools* (UBC Press)

J.R. (Jim) Miller, *Residential Schools and Reconciliation: Canada Confronts Its History* (UTP)

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**W**HISTLEBLOWERS are seldom cited as heroes—especially those who can be dismissed as crackpot racists.

The importance of Federal Indian Agent **Alan Fry**'s first novel and second book, **How a People Die** (Doubleday 1970; Harbour 1994) has therefore gradually been glossed over, even disparaged, now that Canadian society does not wish to countenance a white man's first-hand reportage on social decay on Indian reserves in the 1960s.

Published on the heels of Cree leader **Harold Cardinal's The Unjust Society** (1969), Fry's chilling descriptions of degradations he witnessed in central British Columbia—truthful or fictional—nonetheless ushered in a new era of realistic writing about Canada's First Nations.

*How a People Die* concerns the death of an infant named Annette Joseph on the fictitious Kwatsi Reserve, a collection of shabby houses strewn with empty bottles. Examining the unsanitary conditions surrounding the death, RCMP Corporal Thompson, a veteran of 15 years on the force, takes the controversial measure of charging the infant's parents with criminal neglect. The question soon arises among the characters of the story as to who should be held blameworthy for the tragedy.

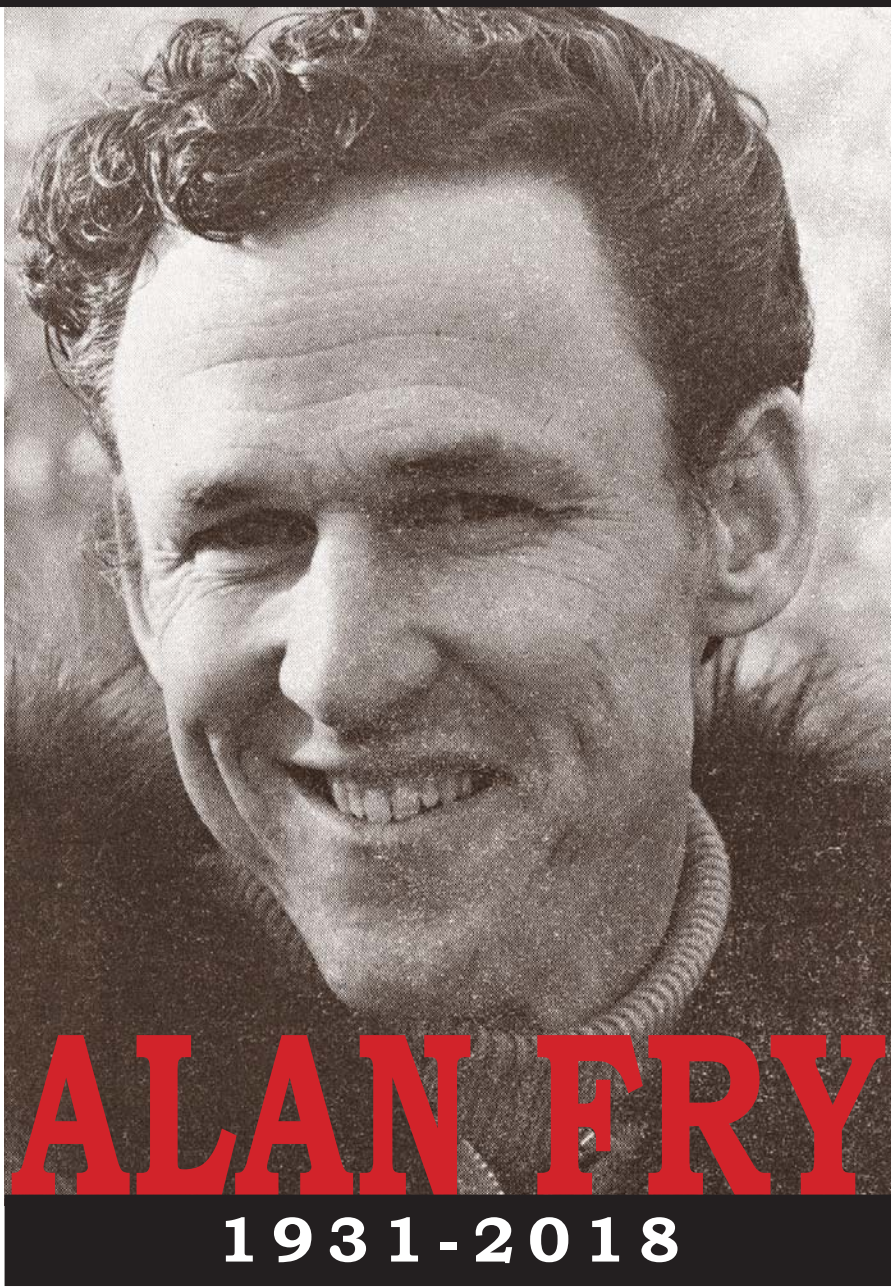
"Tell us how a people die," says one of the Indigenous characters, "and we can tell you how a people live."

The editor of the novel, **Doug Gibson**, has commented in a letter: "The title, as I recall, came in ready-made from him, and I never queried it. Until, that is, the book was out and doing well, and I was visiting bookseller **Bill Duthie** in his store downtown, and he started to tease me gently about having an ungrammatical title. He was right, of course, but for most of us, the immediate link of the plural verb with a noun that normally is plural was enough to make it slip by unnoticed. So, Bill was right, but Alan Fry, seeking colloquial punch, was right, too, I think. And the courage of an Indian Affairs guy, working in the field, writing such a novel, was extraordinary, and I realized that right from the start. Can you imagine such a thing today?"

Also appearing in the aftermath of **George Ryga's The Ecstasy of Rita Joe** at the Vancouver Playhouse, Fry's hard-hitting novel further forced British Columbians to wake up to the plight of marginalized First Nations. For his efforts, Fry was branded a racist for his unscientific assertion that "alcoholism is an inheritable disease and Indian people inherit it to a greater extent than do non-Indians" and the Indigenous parents ought to be held fully accountable for the child welfare.

Most novels by British Columbians received precious little attention prior to Fry's fictional debut. A reviewer for the *New York Times Book Review* described it as "...one of the most sensitive and incisive statements on human alienation I have ever seen."

Fry's introduction to a reissued edition of *How a People Die* contains an amalgam of statistical evidence of violence and familial dysfunction among First Nations. "It is my firm conviction that the succession of increasingly de-



I have said more than once in frustration that if I had the power of God, I would put everyone on earth into a huge pot and stir them up so thoroughly they would come out all the same colour, probably some shade of brown. And there wouldn't be any whites to lord it over everyone else." ALAN FRY

structive lifestyles [on Indian reserves] can be traced back to the end of liquor prohibition to status Indians in the decade following the Second World War," he writes. To further make questionable his opinions and observations, Fry divulges he was himself an alcoholic. He also relates an incident from his boyhood when an Aboriginal male teenager allegedly tried to cajole him into a sexual encounter in the woods.

To further his contention that dependency on alcohol can be overcome, he cites the example of the Alkali Lake Band in the Chilcotin, southwest of Williams Lake, that managed successfully to prohibit alcohol in its midst, as initiated largely by **Phyllis** and **Andy Chelsea** and recorded in the community-produced film *The Honour of All: The Story of Alkali Lake*.

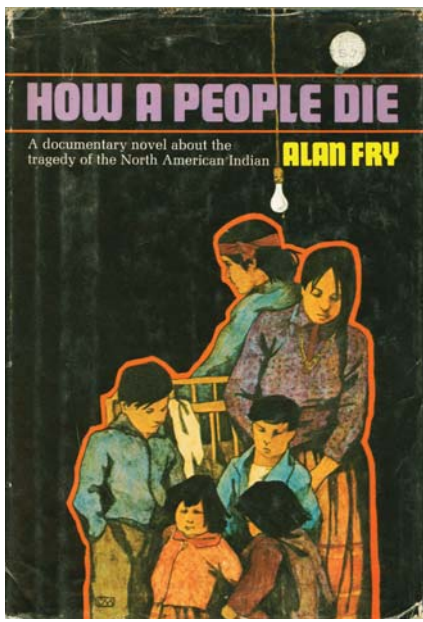
Fry also asserted, "Indian self-government must not be so structured that women and children living under such a government have less protection than is afforded to other Canadian citizens by other levels of government." More reprehensible by today's standards, Fry wrote, "Primary responsibility for recovery lies with the people themselves. Past injustice is not the issue..."

All of which serve to explain why

Alan Fry's significance in B.C.'s literary history has been largely expunged.



ALAN FRY WAS BORN AND RAISED ON A family ranch near Lac La Hache, B.C. in 1931. Although some of his ancestors were farming Quakers in Wiltshire, his grandfather **Roger Fry**, a member of the Fry family that prospered in the chocolate business, was a Cambridge graduate who kept company with the



Original printing of *How A People Die*

Bloomsbury Group. Alan Fry contended his own father immigrated to the B.C. interior to escape Roger Fry's shadow. After more than 20 years of working in northern and central B.C., including fifteen years as an Indian agent, and three more realistic novels about life in the B.C. Interior, Fry quit working for the Department of Indian Affairs out of frustration and settled in the Yukon in 1974.

After moving to the Yukon, Alan Fry repeatedly wrote letters and editorials warning his fellow Yukoners about the perils of racism of all stripes. "I have said more than once in frustration," he wrote, "that if I had the power of God, I would put everyone on earth into a huge pot and stir them up so thoroughly they would come out all the same colour, probably some shade of brown. And there wouldn't be any whites to lord it over everyone else."

The controversial nature of *How A People Die* unfortunately overshadowed the appeal of possibly his superior novel, **The Revenge of Annie Charlie** (Doubleday, 1973, Harbour 1990) an often humorous, sly tale that describes Indigenous characters outwitting non-Indigenous society. Fry also wrote **Come A Long Journey** (Doubleday, 1971) and **The Burden of Adrian Knowle** (Doubleday, 1974).

In Whitehorse, Fry also co-authored **Wilf Taylor's** memoir **Beating Around the Bush: A Life in the Northern Bush** (Harbour, 1989). Fry's first non-fiction book, **The Ranch on the Cariboo** (Doubleday, 1962, Touchwood, 2009) was later republished by Touchwood Editions. It describes a teenager's introduction to manhood and ranching in the early 1940s. Fry's **Survival in the Wilderness** (Macmillan, 1981, / St. Martin's Press, 1996) describes techniques and equipment required to survive emergencies in the wilderness based on Fry's own experiences.

Editor Doug Gibson first contacted Fry in 1969 and remained friends with him, last visiting Fry in January of 2016 when Gibson went to Whitehorse on a book tour. They tended to chat with one another by phone on a monthly basis.

"He was a very fine man and an important part of Canadian writing," Gibson says, "especially for his role in alerting us to the scale of what we then called 'the Indian problem.' That this brutally frank account, *How A People Die*, was written by an employee at the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs led to a storm of protest, with national leaders demanding that he must be fired.

"Alan went to work with the local band on Quadra island and said he'd leave the decision up to them. They asked him to stay on and told the national leaders to back off. Because of our monthly contact, I was aware of the health problems that caused him to lose one leg a year ago, then the other early this year. I know that he and his wife Eileen were pleased to welcome the end."

Alan Fry died in Whitehorse on March 23, 2018.

"Alan Fry was one of B.C.'s most successful writers in the 1970s and '80s," says publisher **Howard White**. "That he has been so completely forgotten is a loss, as well as a caution to writers of today."



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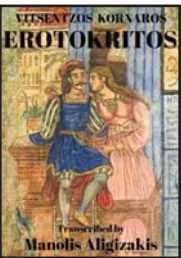
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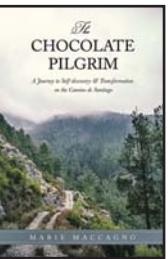
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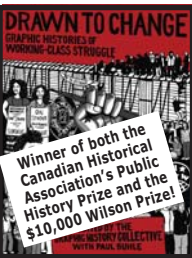
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**John Moore**  
Garibaldi Highlands



AS A POET/WRITER, I WOULD LIKE TO LEND my voice in support of *The Ormsby Review* and the provision of funding to ensure its continuance.

I can well understand the responsibilities and work-load entailed in keeping this new on-line venture going, especially on a volunteer basis, as a pilot project.

I am pleased to have had a review of mine published in *The Ormsby Review* and know from experience that forums for reviews of the sort published by *The Ormsby Review* are few and far between.

I salute you for having taken this on for the betterment of B.C. readers, writers and publishers.

**Mary Lou Soutar-Hynes**  
Toronto

## Not too cool for school

MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE DESIGNER FOR the beautiful and thoughtful layout of your paper, especially the page reviewing *King Arthur's Night*. The design amplifies Paul Durras' wonder-filled review perfectly!

Are copies of *BC BookWorld* available to schools in the province? If so, please add Esquimalt High School in Victoria.

If a bulk subscription is required, please provide the details so that I could arrange for one.

**Geoff Orme**

Teacher-Librarian, Victoria

[Yes, schools can pay a small annual fee to receive bulk shipments, just like bookstores and libraries.—Ed]



**“Why do Americans pay so little attention to their poets and moralists and so much to their millionaires and generals?”**

**LEO TOLSTOY**

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The latter I bought from a bookstore for a friend and the former I won in a draw on the author's Instagram page because I knew about the book!

Thank you for all that you do!

**Denise Bonin**  
Nanaimo

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I PICKED UP THE CURRENT ISSUE OF *BC Bookworld* on the ferry and just wanted to thank you again for the article you printed on page 31, Gender “LGBTQQIIAP.”

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—Richard Mackie, *editor*

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# AD INDEX

Annett, Kevin...39  
Annett, William...39  
Anvil Press...25, 28  
Arsenal Pulp Press...20, 26  
Association of Book Publishers of BC...14  
Banyen Books...47  
BC Book Prizes...27  
BC Ferries Books...14  
BC Historical Federation...26  
Caitlin Press...2  
Cramp, Beverly...41  
Douglas & McIntyre...8  
Douglas College/EVENT...23  
Dundurn Publishing...23

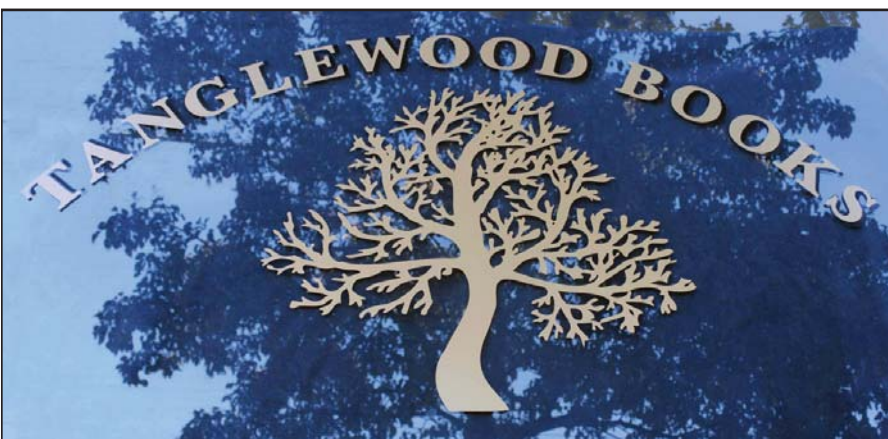
Ekstasis Editions...10  
Ellis, David...47  
Festival of The Written Arts...15  
Friesens Printers...45  
Galiano Island Books...47  
Granville Island Publishing...32  
Greystone Books...12  
Harbour Publishing...48  
The Heritage Group of Publishers...6  
Holland, Ron...32  
Houghton Boston...45  
Libros Libertad Publishing...32  
Literary Press Group (LPG)...18  
MacIntyre Purcell Publishing...20

Marquis...45  
Mercer, George...41  
Mermaid Tales Bookshop...47  
Mother Tongue Publishing...18, 25  
New Star Books...26, 36  
NeWest Press...23  
Nightwood Editions...34  
Orca Books...5  
Penguin Random House...11  
People's Co-Op Books...47  
Printorium/Island Blue...45  
Raven Publishing...41  
Ravenscrag Press...41  
Royal BC Museum...12

Sandhill Book Marketing...16  
SFU Writers Studio...30  
Talonbooks...25  
Tanglewood Books...47  
Tanner's Books...47  
Thistledown Press...18  
Touchwood Editions...26  
Tradewind Books...27  
UBC Press...2  
University of Alberta Press...41  
Vancouver Desktop...41  
Watershed Sentinel Books...23  
Yoka's Coffee...32



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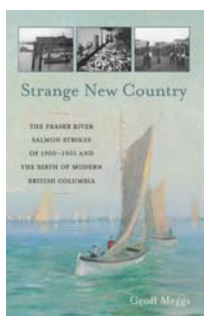


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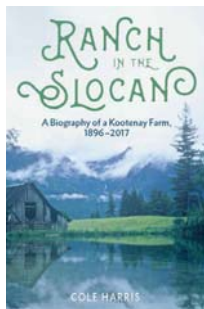


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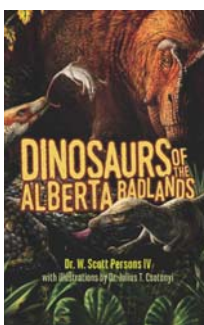


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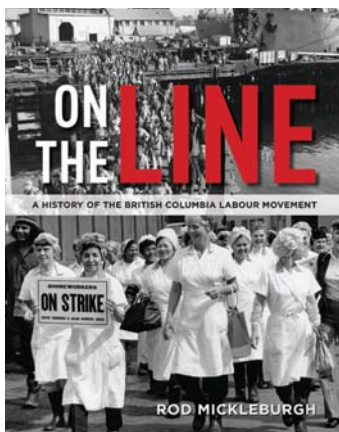


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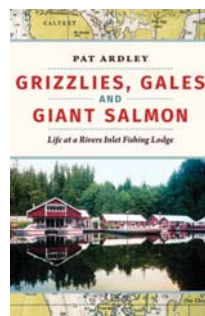
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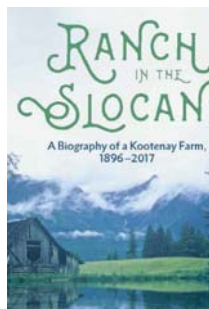


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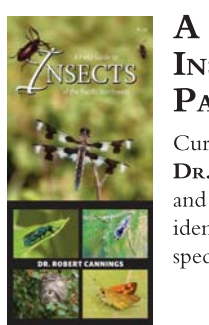


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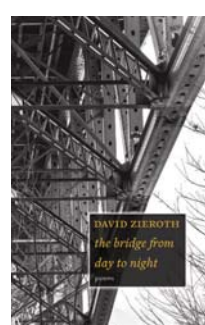
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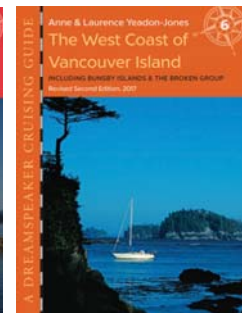
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