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
Writers exploring the impact of resource development on local communities, Indigenous cultures and our world.

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

GREAT SUMMER READS

COMING IN FALL 2018
Tuesday's anti-aging formula

In 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 with 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!" she said. "I'll just go in the other room, Yvonne." The patient abandoned the idea of ever again sleeping in the same room with his wife. Similarly, when Kirkpatrick's wife Claire eventually went into a care facility, their intimate relationship dwindled. At first, they had designated date nights at the facility's breach of the peace: The Site C Dam and a Valley's Stand against Big Hydro (Arsenal Pulp Press $21.95) and Organize Your Digital Life: Declutter Your Data, (Heritage House $15) are also topselling in May.

Pauline Daniel's memoir, Tuesdays with Jack (Granville Island $18.95), has been an unexpected bestseller. "It's just me, Yvonne. It's Graham." "Get out of my house!" she said. "I'll just go in the other room, Yvonne." The patient abandoned the idea of ever again sleeping in the same room with his wife. Similarly, when Kirkpatrick's wife Claire eventually went into a care facility, their intimate relationship dwindled. At first, they had designated date nights at the facility's entrance, noticing her face, her words, and her laughter. "Buba, you look old," she said, "but you look beautiful." "Yes, you're beautiful, Buba," he said, "and 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 their way to get him. He kissed the phone.

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

"No one locally seems to have any problem with Through Different Eyes, Charleson told BC BookWorld. "In fact, I can't help but feel humbled and honoured by the numbers of local people who are buying it, readying 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 Kitum. 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,_SIZE 12_ near Tofino.

University-educated and beautiful, Monica, 27, was the star pupil at Kitum Elementary when it opened in 1967. Eight years later when the forest company made a road connecting Kitum 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 Nuu-chah-nulth peoples. Saul wants them to move to Ottawa. But Monica decides to ditch Saul, quit her office job at Indian Affairs, and return to her humble Kitum 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 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. Brenda confides to Monica that the father of her out-of-wedlock child—unknown to him—is the handsome loner Michael Clydesdale from the rraucously partying Clydesdale family. Monica takes it upon herself to confront him. To divulge more is to say too much. Published by a 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 responded, "and the storyline smoothly paced. Despite its somewhat dated aspects, Charleson does a beautiful job of constructing a novel native 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, compellingly conveying how people feel. Cumulatively, it stands as a testament to how it's the women in Kitum who conserve and foster community.

Karen Charleson has published three novels, one of which is a reference site. Although it's a book about Indigenous people and communities without being Indigenous myself," says Charleson. "I am fully expecting to get some kind of flak at some point from someone who thinks Indigenous people and communities without being Indigenous myself," she adds. "But, I'm not writing 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, the Telka 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 the 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.

Karen Charleson has published three novels, as McGraw-Hill Ryerson and has had numerous articles and essays appear in such diverse publications as the Graphic, The Globe and Mail, the Vancouver Sun, and Can demonstrate that knowledge was super-

Karen holds an MA in Environmental Studies from Athabasca University. "I am fully expecting to get some kind of flak at some point from someone who thinks Indigenous people and communities without being Indigenous myself," says Charleson. "But, I'm not writing 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."
Let’s dive in!

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—Kit Pearson, author

“Enchanting, engaging, and restful.”
—Publishers Weekly starred review

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—Resource Links

“Reminds you of the rhythm of the waves of the Pacific Ocean.”
—Eco Parent

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—Publishers Weekly

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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.

In their desire to select sites close to roads, the Cannings have left out the hot birding spots on the central and north coast. This conspicuous absence also reveals my bias as a coastal naturalist. The ferries, after all, are the coastal highways. Accessible to the public, ferry travel offers great birding opportunities, especially in spring and fall. The ferries weave in and out between open sounds, like Queen Charlotte Sound, where you can glimpse pale (open ocean) seabirds (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 day in Waglala (Bella Bella), K’mentu, 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.

HOT birding spots

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

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.

Tracking the Rhinoceros Auklet and five other seabirds

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.

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 or local experts, insider knowledge, and specialty birds. 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.

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 hik- ing, like Cathedral Provincial Park, south of Princeton and Keremeos. Cannings and Cannings confess their personal bias for Okanagan

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 being president 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 cover both the most accessible southern hotspots (where most readers live) and responsible southern hotspots (where the most readers live) and representative of the northern biological 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.
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FOR TRADE: All Douglas & McIntyre titles are available from University of Toronto Press Distribution
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. Farmland 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 Halfway Rivers.

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

Sarah Cox describes the heroics of dozens of Peace supporters. A perfect symbol is a life-size inflatable white elephant seen on the canvassing circuit. 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”.

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, “Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more.” —Shakespeare, Henry V.
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Mark 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 observed 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 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.”

Mary Ann Moore is a poet, and writing mentor in Nanaimo. Her last book was Fishing for Mermaids (Leaf Press) She blogs at apoeptideonaismo.ca

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

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE
Poetry that gives you hives

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

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NATURE

Wake up and smell the smoke

SING COMPUTER MODELS based on a conserva-
tive rate of tempera-
ture increase for the
planet, fire ecologists
predicted the extent of
the worst wildfire season in B.C. his-
tory 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 evacu-
ated from their homes.

It was the weather and fuel con-
ditions that made last year unprec-
edented, 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
Sinorski, B.C. was part of a global crisis
in fire management. Some 4,700 fire-
fighters and associated personnel from
across Canada fought the fires—with
help from experts from Mexico, Austra-
ia, New Zealand and the U.S., as well
as inmates from four B.C. jails who
received token payment for ancillary
support jobs.

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.

978-1-77276-090-3

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

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12 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2018
**Wild in the streets**

From Miami to Berlin to Dundas to Helsinki

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.

**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.

**Making Sunlight**

“That 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—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.

**Five things to drive you buggy**

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.**

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

3. **We learn that the exquisitely shaped (but unfortunately named) chlorophoria stick bug is vegetarian. Other stick bug species may eat insects but all are experts at creating smelly chemicals to ward off predators. The green stick bug has a gradual metamorphosis and its nympha 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 covering. 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.**

5. **The lady beetle, more commonly called the ‘ladybug,’ has another way to warn would-be predators: its bright colours indicate that it tastes awful.**
Selected by Alan Twigg

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 acerbic 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.
CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN
Terror and elation on the rocks of mountains and marriage

End of the Rope: Mountains, Marriage, and Motherhood by Jan Redford (Penguin Random House $32.00)

With her subtitle, mountains, marriage and motherhood, Jan Redford alerts us to the fact that the End of the Rope merges two subjects—recklessness and domesticity.

As an unhappy young girl, Redford throws herself against a rock face in frustration with her father, climbed it, and unleashed an unbalanced, dangerous energy that propelled her to make risky decisions and walk on the wild side.

She was tough, promiscuous, street smart and largely poor, living the rough and tumble life of a rock climber, doing what she needed to do in order to enable the peripatetic life of an adventurer: tree planting, waitressing, guiding, and living on unemployment insurance. Since age eleven, she kept angst-ridden journals. Redford’s narrative reveals her youth as a pinnacle by many.

Redford’s narrative reveals her youth as a pinnacle by many. In her early twenties, as a gal in a guy’s world, time and time again she resourcefully sees her way through the precarious life of a freelance writer, getting published from Toronto, viewed as a pinnacle by many. I’ve always managed to find trouble, even in the most innocuous of places or situations,” she writes on her blog.

I’ve always managed to find trouble, even in the most innocuous of places or situations,” she writes on her blog.

Now Redford has married again, to another risk taker—a stuntman—and she is climbing, climbing, living the precarious life of a freelance writer, getting published from Toronto, viewed as a pinnacle by many.

Most of my adventures are more fun to write about than to live through,” she writes on her blog.

Most of my adventures are more fun to write about than to live through.”

Andreas Kampel, another climber whose friend of his, another climber whose dream is to climb Everest and beyond.

Halfway through her memoir, Redford turns a corner and becomes a mostly conventional, unhappily married woman and mother. The couple live hand-to-mouth until he becomes a full-time logger, something he swore he would never do. Year after year, Redford keeps planning to attend university. Instead, she has her second child within an already hopeless marriage, falling, falling, falling.

When the marriage finally ends, Redford makes it to university where she starts learning the ropes of the writing game, earning an MA in creative writing. The department doesn’t just teach paragraphs and commas; it’s also an incubation tank for those who want to learn how to climb in the hierarchy.

“Is it quite possible I’ve taken more writing programs than any other writer in the Lower Mainland,” she blogs.

“After I handed over my thesis, I made the secretary swear she would hang up on me if I ever tried to sign up for another course.”

Now Redford has married again, to another risk taker—a stuntman—and she is climbing, climbing, living the precarious life of a freelance writer, getting published from Toronto, viewed as a pinnacle by many.

Most of my adventures are more fun to write about than to live through.”

Her physically short stature? How does her father put her down?

Cherie Theissen is a freelance writer and outdoorswoman on Pender Island.

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Larry R. Lovis

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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

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

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

BY MARK FORSYTHE

E stimated USC 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, an upper-middle-class gentleman in 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 in 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 mediocrate student, he found the college dull. As someone who made friends easily, he journeyed 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 intermarriage deserver 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: “Hears 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 needed to 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 humanists 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 Canadians lived in the ranch house while families stayed in basic camp houses in the Farm 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 naive 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 resisted 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 this book’s end, we see how the natural environment of the Slocan has also shaped the soul of its chronicler.

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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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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.
Available October 1

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The Unceasing Storm: Memories of the Chinese Cultural Revolution by Katherine Luo

BY JOAN GIVNER

T HE BENCHMARK OF acclaimed novelists Madeleine Thien and Katherine Luo has been her 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 throttling 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 China 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 because of her capitalist origins (her father was a businessman) and over- sensitivity. When she tried to get the certificate she deserved, she was rebuffed by one official after another (shades of Dickens’ “A Tale of Two Cities” and Circumlocution). “Well, Luo, you are definitely different. I remember your country. Luo’s experience, 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 placed her case after forty years of being denied respect and lost income, it came a little too late. Yet, it was a victory that compared with so many greater abuses, hers seem trivial.

Of her 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 in political un-reliability. 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.

19 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2018

Joan Givner just gets better and better—writing now from Victoria.
BRITISH COLUMBIA BURNING
The worst wildfire season in B.C. history

• STATE OF EMERGENCY
• MORE THAN 65,000 PEOPLE EVACUATED
• MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION HECTARES IN FLAMES

BETHANY LINDSAY
Foreword by Gary Filmon

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VIVID AND ENGAGING
“A vivid and engaging look at a summer of unprecedented wildfires, British Columbia Burning takes the reader inside the communities that were forced to flee the flames. An important book that everyone should read.” — Rob Shaw, co-author, A Matter of Confidence: The Inside Story of the Political Battle for B.C.

MUST-READ
“The reader experiences the plight of those affected by these fires, hears the analyses of the scientists studying their cause, and stands side-by-side with the firefighters battling the blaze. This book is a must-read.” — Warren Mabee, director, Queen’s Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy, Queen’s University

BEAUTIFULLY TOLD
“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

FIGHTING FOR SPACE
Eve Lazarus
Winner, George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature: “An intense, riveting report on a public health crisis and a network of heroes on the front lines.” — Kirkus Reviews

PROPERTY VALUES
Charles Demers
“An Property of Dead, Canada’s best and most socially engaged comedian takes aim at the housing crisis and the death of journalism with equal parts humour, outrage, and literary virtuosity.” — Sara Waisn, author of Invisible Dead

FORWARD: A Graphic Novel
Lisa Meas
“A moving depiction of grief and loss, but one that also includes sweet moments of sexual desire, joy, and laughter, which bubble up even in the most painful of times.” — Sarah Levin, author of Tangles

LITTLE FISH
Casey Plett
“A confident, moving work that reports unflinchingly on the lives of trans women in Winnipeg...a powerful and important debut.” — National Post

JONNY APPLESEED
Joshua Whitehead
Winner, George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature: “If we’re lucky, we’ll find one or two books in a lifetime that change the language of story, that manage to illuminate new curves in the flat vessels of old letters and words. This is one of those books.” — Cherie Dimaline, author of The Marrow Thieves

BLOOD, SWEAT, AND FEAR
Eve Lazarus
Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Award finalist: the story of Vancouver’s forensic investigator John Vance and the compelling cases that were solved with his pioneering techniques.
W hen Agnes Deans Cameron died in 1912, her funeral cor- tège was the largest the city of Victoria had ever witnessed. Fast forward to Canada’s 150th anniversary of con- federation and Agnes Deans Cameron was named one of the 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 overl 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 jour- nalis, publishing extensively in Canadian and American magazines such as Saturday Evening Post, Pacific Monthly, The Canadian Magazine, Educa- tional Journal of Western Canada and The Coast. Also, a perceptive observer of Inuit and Chipewyan cul- ture and women, she travelled extensively in later years pro- moting immigration to western Canada and addressing audi- ences 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, and her intelli- gence 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 Pardro contributed a chapter to a book Converse was working on with Barbara Latham in 1980, called In Her Own Right: Se- lected Essays in Women’s History in B.C. “A woman,” Converse says, “I also felt that she could teach me about confidence and how to deflect the arrows that threaten to slay us the moment we dare to step apart from the norm.”

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 fur- ther 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 wa- ter for allowing her students to use rulers for their drawing tests. Her dismissal this time prompted her resignation from the School Board of Victoria and her relocation to Chicago to work as a writer, chiefly writ- ing about the Canadian West. Cameron became vice-pres- ident of the Canadian Women’s Press Club and began saving for her long hoped-for jour- ney up the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Circle in 1908, at age 44, in the company of her niece, Jessie Cameron Brown. With photographic equipment and a typewriter, they made a six-month journey from Chicago to the Arctic via the Athabasca River, Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River.

Cameron’s lone book is almost always accorded an initial publishing year of 1909 but it could well have been 1909. In her travelogue Cameron accepted polygamy among the Inuit but regretted the general status of women. “Sad is the lot of the Indian woman of the North,” she wrote. “Fated always to play a secondary part in the family drama, it is hard to see what pleasure life holds for her. The birth of a baby girl is not attended with joy or thank- fulness. From the beginning the little one is pushed into the background. The boy ba- bies, even the dogs, have the chooser 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 as- sert the equality of Aboriginal peoples. She returned to Chi- cago and later toured Brit- ain in late 1909, with Jessie Cameron Brown and another niece, Gladys Cameron, giv- ing presentations about her journey to the Arctic Circle. In 1911, Cameron returned to Victoria and appeared on stage with the British suffrag- ette 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 immigra- tion. She planned to write a novel about mining camps to be based upon research in Stewart, B.C.

Now that larger metropoli- tan centres had recognized her spirit and accomplishments, Cameron soon discovered she was welcomed back to Victoria as a celebrity. Stricken with appendicitis, Cameron con- tracted pneumonia following surgery and died at age 48 on May 13, 1912, in Victoria. Her body was taken to Seattle for cremation.
Alice Jane Hamilton’s Orcadian ancestor John Rae exposed cannibalism among the doomed Franklin Expedition.

I

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

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

Roughly translating to “it is enough” or “enough is enough” in the Orcadian proverb, tara gott, Rae’s inclusion of their stories as evidence in his confidential report to the British Admiralty wavered in his defence of his credibility.

As a piece of creative non-fiction, Hamilton’s work combines historical research with literary invention to intimately detail Rae’s life-altering decisions, 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 for Canada is an “end of an era” and opens the novel’s 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 Inuit peoples were a blight.

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

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

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 conversation with Inuit elders while researching her book.

Through her perceptive and historically grounded narrative, Hamilton unvarnishes 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.
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.

Highways win in Nakusp

At its AGM in Nakusp, the B.C. Historical Federation (BCHF) announced that Ben Bradley had 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.

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).

Bypassing Dystopia:
Hope-filled challenges to corporate rule

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$20
ISBN 978-0-9953286-3-1

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Deadline: October 15
eventmagazine.ca
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.

**Discover 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—acknowledged only to a B.C.-published book—for *On Island: Life Among the Coast Dwellers.*

An ex-politician and former journalist, Carney ignored once—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 for their support, their position on BC Ferries’ shelves. One fellow wrote to say he had been on the MV Coho from Victoria to Port Angeles, so he improved 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 on 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!’”

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

Nestled arrived in Vancouver from Halifax, Faith Erin Hicks was not present to accept the Christie Harris-Clarke Children’s Literature Prize for *The Stone Heart* (New York: First Second Publishing). Nestled arose in Toronto to receive the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize earlier this year. David Chastandy sent an acceptance speech for his father’s Robert den Ouden Non-Fiction Prize winner, *The Reconciliation Manifesto.*

**Winners, nominees and presenters:**
- *Fight for Yours* at the Book Prizes book table.
- His nominated title won the 2018 Roya Award for Social Awareness in Literature; *Shake Manalo* accepted the award for his father’s Robert Evans Non-Fiction Prize winner, *The Reconciliation Manifesto.*

**Economists and Aboriginal scholars** were the big winners at the 2018 B.C. Book Prizes, with *Red Sky, Black Snow* by Paul might; *Fighting For Respect* by Robert Lee; and *Prison Industrial Complex Explodes* by Mercedes Eng. (see page 7).

**BC BOOK PRIZES**

The Lieutenant Governor’s Award for an outstanding literary career in B.C. has been presented with much gleeful presenters who doubled as his fan club.

“I know Bill Duthie,” she said, “and he wouldn’t be here tonight. He’d be out in the hall selling books.”

**As the west leans to the east**

Among the Coast Dwellers

**CONGRATULATIONS**

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

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

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**Jonína Kirton**
Finalist for the 2018 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for her book *An Honest Woman.*
She also helped create the Planet Earth Poetry reading series in Victoria that brings live poetry to audiences on Friday nights.

The Sooke poet and author of six books has received the Federation of British Columbia Writers’ 2018 Honourary 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).

Patrick Friesen touches on musical influences and the changes in language over the centuries in Songs (Mother Tongue $19.95). 978-1-896949642

Manolis has released Chthonian Bodies with paintings by Ken Kirky (Libros $48). The White Rock poet has also published Shades and Colours (Libros $20) by Ion Deaconescu, translated by Oliver Faggieri.

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). 978-0-88971-344-4

MIDNIGHT MIRTH

A selection of Dorothy Livesay poetry

by Tracey Morris

When I was a girl

Our town had a poet

His name was Dorothy Livesay

We were proud of her

The town had a festival every year

To remember her

We made her a statue

She has an apron

Heaps of books

And a great big head

She wrote about men

And women

And nature

And love

And grief

And joy

And beer

She was our poet

We knew all her poems

We recited them

At school

At home

In the dark

In the light

In the kitchen

In the yard

In the woods

In the fields

In the sea

In the mountains

We were proud of her

We still are

Her poems are everywhere

Her poems are in our hearts

She was our poet

She still is
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 34TH ANNUAL BC BOOK PRIZES!

WIN THE WINNERS CONTEST
Enter to win a collection of all seven winning titles. See participating stores and contest details online at www.bcbookprizes.ca. Contest runs from May 20 – June 17, 2018.

SEE FINALIST BOOKS, TOUR PHOTOS, AND MORE AT WWW.BCBOOKPRIZES.CA

Tradewind Books congratulates

Arushi Raina

Nicola Campbell
Julie Flett

Irene Watts
Kathryn Shoemaker

Winner: The Children’s Africana Book Awards 2018

Finalist: The 2017 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People

Winner: The 2018 BC Book Prizes, Christie Harris illustrated Children’s Literature Award

Winner: The 2017 Vine Award for Canadian Jewish Literature

Winner: The Western Canada Jewish Book Prize 2018
idspread media coverage of the neo-Nazis in North Carolina last summer shocked many people. Some anti-fascist protesters (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.


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**Panel from *The Antifa Comic Book* by Gord Hill**

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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 Gorge in the 1960s to prevent the sale and logging of Ahousaht ancestral land on Flores Island.

☆

*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).

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

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**SUMMER READS from the FORGE!**

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**BLACK STAR**

*Black Star* is compelling fiction. With its loose basis in historical fact, the story carefully spirals in and out of absurdity without losing the core of the story. The quest draws readers getting out alive.

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**HIDER/SEEKER**

"Curing writes with precision, beauty, and tenderness about the politics of imperfect relationships and people struggling to find wholeness." —Kevin Cheng, author of *Beauty Plus Ply and The Plague"

"...this collection is a work of art that cuts brilliantly through to the truth." —Wayde Compton, author of *The Outer Harbour"

"'Jen Curwin writes into difficult places with delicacy, humour and meditative grace...'" —Shauna Lambert, author of *Ok, My Darling and Radiance*

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**STRAIGHT CIRCLES**

Domestic satire meets gripping suspense in Straight Circles, the final, explosive chapter of Bateman’s Larry Trilogy. The original and eccentric cast of characters return in this genre-bending thriller, but not everyone’s getting out alive.

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**QUARRELS**

prose poems by Eve Joseph

"The illogical must have a logic of its own..." This declaration, recounted in a piece early in the collection, could be taken as a premise for the book as a whole. These meditations, eclectic anecdotes, and the lovely eloquent sequence that completes the book each demonstrate that the real is underpinned by the surreal, rather than the other way around. Read each one slowly, and watch it blossom in the interstices of what we have been considered ordinary life.” —Roo Borson

"Eve Joseph hands us the golden key that unlocks an indecent 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 Aflame*

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**BOLT**

poetry by Hilary Peach

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

*"Hilary Peach in Bolt is wildly open to the world. Through times be desperate, she’s resilient and alert in every moment."* —Erin Moure
Fernie At War: 1914-1919
by Wayne Norton
(Caitlin Press $24.95)

BY W. KEITH REGULAR

FERNIE 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. There followed four weeks of protests and demonstrations that brought the internment of enemy aliens. There followed four years of strife. Fernie residents concurred, and the federal ministry of labour 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. 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 pun- dits and scholars. 9781987915495


FERNIE AT WAR

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.

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.

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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.”

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.

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Work with a mentor in a supportive community
Part-time online program starts September
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The Promise of Water

BY CAROLINE WOODWARD

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

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 simmering flashes of joy and tossed 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 infertile, self-absorbed mother dedicated to avoiding responsibility, never mind not possessing the grandmastery gene.

The basement-suite-dwelling teen must accept the fact that her 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 mud 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—Vancouver Island—where the sweet fragrance of cedar mingles with the musky odours of damp mould and stale cigarette smoke that can be washed away by a clean, cold wave. They battle with their own intellect 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 simmering flashes of joy and tossed along by undercurrents of humour.

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Featuring a foreword by media baron Rupert Murdoch, All The Oceans, Designing by the seat of my pants includes some of the renowned yacht designer’s earliest sketches. This memoir traces Holland’s sea-faring adventures from his native New Zealand to the US, Ireland and now Vancouver. There are great stories along the way, like when his boat was boarded by Fidel Castro’s navy. He designed some of the world’s fastest racing yachts, luxurious super vessels for celebrities and royalty, and Mirabella V, the largest single-masted yacht ever constructed.

“Holland is a congenial storyteller and skilled writer and his lifetime of achievement is as admirable as it is entertaining.” Foreword Reviews

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Yoka is reading & recommends:
Speaking Our Truth by Monique Gray Smith (Orca Books).
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 shudderingly unforgetdable 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 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 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 Pretty Face, a self-esteem and her troubled son. When he plunges Frances back into misery. 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... It’s dark in them thar hills.

Stay-at-home mom Frances Metcalfe struggles...
FEAR ‘N’ LOATING
in a place resembling UBC

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 presents a field that has produced Kingsley Amis’ Lucky Jim, Tom Sharpe’s Porterhouse Blue, Malcolm Bradbury’s The History Man and several satirical piss-taking 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 genrally familiar from both experience and fiction. The stock character of the loveable Absent-Minded Professor has long since been replaced by a fragile, brittle personality. His 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 fragile, brittle personality.

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 consolata for humiliations endured in every other aspect of human relations. Her impending bid for tenure is more than just another career step. Tenure is for humiliation, for derring-do, for envy, for shame, for paranoia. Del’s manuscript of The Catastrophic Decision invites us to care about her. For Del, who has put her eggs in one of the only baskets she has, and who has put her few eggs in one of those baskets. She has no other choice in life.

Unfortunately, her tenure bid hinges on getting a publication deal for her new work, for helplessly titled The Catastrophic Decision, and writing it is starting to look like one of those fateful, book-a-tick- on-the-Titanic choices. Meanwhile, while her life is being weighed in a balance by a committee of careerist creeps and feebles, 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.

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 amiable 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.

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.

** maureen medved’s novel is a “black comedy” on par with real estate bump advertising timeshare condos in hell.**
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. 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.

REMOVING HURT

Rejoice: A Knife to the Heart by Steven Erikson

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 archivist and anthropologist, has published a ten-novel, three-million-plus-word 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.

CRIME & WATER

Give Out Creek by JG Toews

Long-time resident of Victoria, 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 rise 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.

She 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.

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 Smith 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.

“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.”

Word of mouth is very powerful in fantasy. STEVEN ERIKSON
Euclid’s Orchard and Other Essays by Theresa Kishkan (Mother Tongue $22.95)

By Catriona Sandilands

This book’s first essay, “Heraclitean 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 attentions and aspirations of his daughter and sons.

His is a “legacy of diminishing.” 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 “Peaunting Mountain,” for example, set in Ridgedale where he worked at CFB Matsqui, his violence is still present, but only as a small, almost muted background. His is a “legacy of diminishing,” set in Ridgedale.

Next, near Drumheller, she recounts her discoveries on a trip to the Alberta Provincial Archives, her maternal grandfather’s vast and 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 concludes with the cries of coyotes: “lifting 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.”

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

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

Some End / West Broadway

George Bowering / George Stanley

“Caustic and clever... Often beautiful and always witty.”
—Jonathan Ball, Winnipeg Free Press

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 and their early presence across the Pacific Northwest.

New Star Books: new poetry & prose since 1970

Essays

36 BC Bookworld Summer 2018
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.

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.

Chong echoes the tone; his 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 practice is not universally appreciated.

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

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A is for Atleo
First, there were food trucks. Now along rolls Iron Dog Books, a mobile bookstore, using a 2006 Freightliner stepvan, owned and operated by Indigenous partners Cliff and Hilary Atleo (Nuu Chah Nulth/Tsimshian and Anishinaabe/Scottish racial backgrounds). Burnaby-based and dedicated to serving T슬-ے-wətnut, Słčwəʔnə.mesh 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). 9780147530394

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 to Greenland, Burton explores the highlights, history, including familial links to the German Memory Not in My Family: A Non-Jewish Family’s Experience of the Holocaust. Despite having a handsome family foundation prize in the Holocaust 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 Canadian 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.

C is for Campbell
All members of Olga Campbell’s mother’s family were murdered in the Shoah 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. 9780-9812911-2-3

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. 9781550178319

E is for Ellis
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, a non-Jewish, 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 Canadian 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.

G is for Goodison
Lorna Goodison 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 sixth book, Shakespeare, Bakhtin, and Film: A Dialogic Lens (Palgrave Macmillan $140.86), is a study of Russian philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin (1899–1975) 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. 978-3-319-57413-3

38 BC BOOKWORLD SUMMER 2018
**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 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture at UBC. Former associate professor at Royal Roads University, Bob Joseph discusses the dramatic and oppressive effects of the Indian Act since its creation in 1876 with 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act since its creation in 1876, which offers insights into the lives of Indigenous people and their struggle for justice.

**Is for Kaho’olawe**

George Mercer, a beary good friend

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.”

**Is for Little**

Sゅ'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 $79.50). Little argues that the national image of Canada that emerged was colonialist as well as colonial in nature.

**Is for Mercer**

T’uy’t’tanat-Cease Wyss

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.

**Is for Who’s Who**

In 1977, Hilyar 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.

**Is for Watershed**

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.

“You can’t have pure water till you get the hogs out of the creek.”

List Price: $14.95

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(386) 323-5774 or pickwick88@yahoo.com
**O is for Oghma**

**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*. The People’s Co-op first published *Rise of the Siang Mien*. Oghma’s second book, *In Her Second Book, Not My Fate: The Story of A Nisga’a Survivor*, 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 family 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.

**R is for Romain**

Janet Romain, a French-Canadian scholar, is the author of *Not My Fate: The Story of A Nisga’a Survivor*, a first critical book to examine his legacy. 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 family 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.

**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, half Bowering’s short length verses. They occasionally make reference to each other’s work. Stanley’s describes a panhandler: “Face unmixed of a 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.

**T is for Townsin**

Troy Townsin, Melbourne-born actor-playwright, 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.
A LONG-TIME WRITER ON CLIMATE CHANGE, Peter D. Carter has co-authored with Dr. Elizabeth Woodworth the Unprecedented Elements of Indigenous Style, a guide to writing by and about Indigenous Peoples. Carter was born in Chiang Mai, Thailand, but is a part of the Shan people from Burma. He 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). 978-1-978157-77-8

Onjana Yawnghwe is a writer/publisher, editor, and freelance writer in Vancouver—to help you:

- Conduct research to augment your story.
- Provide advice on printing.
- Write the story with you.
- Provide extensive interviewing process.
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- Outline 22 Indigenous style principles that are about process and appropriate terminology.
- Publish your story.
- Review your life’s story.
- Conduct research to augment your story.
- Provide advice on printing.
- Write the story with you.
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David Starr, The Nor’Wester (Ronaldale)
Geo Takach, Tar Wars: Oil, Environment and Alberta’s Image (University of Calgary Press)
Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read, Wolf Island (Orcar)
Leslie L’Heureux, Brother (McClelland & Stewart)
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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 (Manitoba) (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. Quinney, This Small Army of Women: Canadian Volunteer Nurses and the First World War (RMB)
Roderick Haig-Brown, re-issued Osler’s Fishing Birds (1980) (Caitlin)
Daniel Stoppelman, People, Power, and Progress: The Story of John Hart and the Campbell River Power Projects. (Figure1)
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Helen Raptis with members of the Secwepemc Nation, What We Learned: Two Generations Reflect on Tsleil-Waututh Education (UTP)
Celia Morgan, (with Michele Favrholdt, Secwépemc People, Land, Written: A Photo Guide to Northwest Marine Life (Harbour)
Diana Turner, Mike Rousseau, and Ken Favel, Kwädąy Dän Ts’ìnchį: Teachings on Which We Live: Life on the Cariboo Plateau: 70 Mile House to Bridge Lake (Caitlin)
Liam O’Flaherty, Longshoring on the West Coast (Anvil)
Andrea McKenzie, War-Torn the Great War (UBC Press)
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Neil Sterritt, Mapping My Way Home: A Gitxsan History Creekvewek (Kevin Chong, The Plague (Arsenal Pulp)
Tomson Highway, From Oral to Written. Celebration of Indigenous Literature in Canada, 1980-2010 (Talonbooks)
Shannon Sinn, The Haunting of Vancouver Island: Supernatural Encounters with the Other Side (Touchwood)
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Robert Canning, A Field Guide to Insects of the Pacific Northwest (Harbour)
Eric Meure, Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots (New Star)
Roger Boudet, A Legacy of Canadian Art from Kelowna Collections (Kelowna Art Gallery)
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Richard Waghame, Indian Horse (Douglas & McTreyer)
Pamela Thinker, Reaped Under Fire (Eksztart)
Kate Bird, City On Edge: A Rebelious Century of Vancouver Protesters, Riots, and Strikes (Greystone)

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R. Peter Broughton, Northern Star: J.S. Plaskett (UTP)
Major-General Sir Edward Morris, edited by Susan Ray-Bun, Virginia: The Long-Last Memoir of Canada’s Artillery Commander in the Great War (Hearst)
Rhodri Jones [Rhodri Windsor- Lias] Edges of Empire: A Documentary (Rarebit Press)
Barry Gough, Churchill and Fish- er: The Plans at the Admiralty who fought the First World War (Lorimer)
Russell Canning and Richard Canning, Best Places to Bird in British Columbia (McEldewart & Stall)

Published Book Reviews

YEAR TWO (partial)
Leanne Liebert, The Most Dangerous Thing (Orcar)
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 the Great War (UBC Press)

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The BookReview
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Alan Fry
I think the Ormsby Review is the best thing anyone has ever done for writing in this country. Why funding agencies don’t get this just baffles me.

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How could anyone fail to support it? Especially when book reviews are disappearing nearly everywhere else?

John Moore

Garibaldi Highlands

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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 continuation.

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

Since sliced bread

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 Durrans’ wonder-filled review perfectly!

Are copies of BC BookWorld available to schools in the province? If so, please ask 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

The Ormsby Review wishes to thank its 265 contributors for more than 300 in-depth reviews and essays thus far, during the venture’s pilot project phase, Sept. 2016—Sept. 2018.

—Richard Mackie, editor

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