ESI EDUGYAN

of Victoria has rocketed into Margaret Atwood and Alice Munro territory with just her third novel.

See page 9

THE HARSH REALITY OF BULLYING
Holly Dobbie tackles the misery in her new YA novel.

PAGE 35

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FOR TRADE: All Douglas & McIntyre titles are available from University of Toronto Press Distribution
Vigorous, independent, stubborn and sometimes difficult to get along with, 28-year-old Roza-lind of Salmon Arm has Multiple Sclerosis. Through endless appointments, she desperately searches for a cure while trying to make sense of her new condition. Out of options, she moves home, but her mother is unexpectedly faced with a serious illness of her own. As Roz becomes more despondent and isolated, her faithful dog, Deputy, is her main companion. Her world view begins to change as Roz builds an inner life with a growing awareness of God.

That’s the gist of Mona Houle’s far from dreary fictionalized memoir, Hope from Stone: A Walk with Multiple Sclerosis (Mo’s Art Media $17.99), written after Houle took two mentorship programs with Gail Anderson-Dargatz. The feisty quality of the protagonist’s personality keeps the reader engaged as Roz moves from being a somewhat cynical, fault-finding victim to becoming a calm, secure, empowered woman of age. Clearly based on personal experience, Hope from Stone is a very worthwhile book for anyone who wants to understand MS.

Smitthers

Smithers arose from a swamp beneath a mountain. Initially the non-Indigenous residents largely excluded the surrounding Witsuwit’en population. As a third-generation native of Smithers, academic Tyler McCready has orchestrated interviews with more than fifty Witsuwit’en and non-Indigenous families for Shared Histories: Witsuwit’en—Settler Relations in Smithers BC 1913—1973 (Creekstone $24.95). To celebrate this publication, the community of Witset (formerly Moricetown) and the Liskwuł clan organized a 34 km. Walk to Witset and a feast hosting more than 400 guests (over 50% non-Indigenous). Ut’akhgit Henry Alfred, the last living Witsuwit’en plaintiff in the Delgamuukw—Gisdaywa court case (the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Aboriginal title was an ancestral right protected by the Constitution) hosted the feast, attending in spite of illness, and died soon after.

Fernie

You know a movie or book has got you hooked when you start feeling relieved when bad things don’t happen to the characters, when it’s looking like they will. Bill Stenson’s fully-realized novel set in Fernie, Ordinary Strangers (Mother Tongue $28.95), works that way throughout. In 2013, Stenson was a finalist for the 2nd Great BC Novel Contest. Last year it was announced he had won the 4th Great BC Novel Contest judged by Audrey Thomas. His Ordinary Strangers is about the upbringing of a daughter who wonders why there are no baby pictures of her in the family album. It opens with a couple driving to Fernie in the early 1960s. Stopping at Hope, where they lose their dog, they discover instead a crying toddler in the woods. Unable to have children of their own, they proceed to raise the girl they name Stacey, giving her a birthdate and remaining secretive about her lost— ‘n’— found origins. It is a sophisticated novel about unsophisticated people over two decades. There are countless hurdles and close calls, two calamities, oddball neighbours and an adopted dog. Real life. Audrey Thomas describes this story about the road to forgiveness as funny, horrific and sad. “The story,” she says, “will make you think hard about what it means to be a family.”

KETTLE VALLEY

In exchange for the promise of a transcontinental line to the West Coast, British Columbia was brought into the Canadian Confederation in 1871. When the Canadian Pacific Railway arrived in 1886, it bolstered economic development in the province, created the city of Vancouver and spurred others to build competing lines. In his prolifically illustrated Iron Road West: An Illustrated History of British Columbia’s Railways (Harbour $44.95) Derek Hayes charts the development of the province through its competitive railway lines and he explores the emergence of the modern freight railway in British Columbia, including fully automated and computerized trains.

Cover art of Hope From Stone
Worry Stones
Joanna Lilley

Set in the Canadian Arctic and Scottish Highlands, Lilley’s captivating debut novel portrays art historian Jenny in her struggle to rescue her mother from a religious cult and keep her fanatical father at bay. All the while, Jenny tries to move beyond her need for the comfort of “worry stones” and to foster her own talents as a sculptor, working alongside Inuit artists.

978-1-55380-541-0 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-542-7 (EBOOK)  286 pp  $18.95

Gold in British Columbia
Martie Elliott

Elliott takes readers through the gold rushes of B.C. from 1858 to B.C.’s entry into Confederation, explaining their central importance to Canada’s history. With 50 photos & maps.

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Claiming the Land
British Columbia and the Making of a New El Dorado
Daniel Marshall

Marshall focuses on the 1858 Fraser River gold rush and its battles between the California miners and the First Nations peoples. With 30 photos & maps.

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Skylight
Antony Di Nardo

Poetry exploring the interplay between a disintegrating natural world and the human observer. Partly feral, partly tamed, these poems record what we miss inside and outside our windows.

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Out All Day
John Donlan

These poems evoke our sense of loss as we live through the sixth extinction of the natural world. Yet always they reveal the comfort and courage provided by close and loving observations of the processes of life.

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Des Kennedy

A poignant novel invoking the confessions and “beautiful communions” within a turbulent family — all observed by border collie Shep with bemused detachment.

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FOR YOUNG READERS

Tree Musketeers
Norma Charles

Jeanie Leclaire discovers that a giant cedar tree next to her school is going to be bulldozed by her uncle. How can she become a tree musketeer and save the tree?

978-1-55380-550-2 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-551-9 (EBOOK)  130 pp  $11.95

The King’s Shilling
David Starr

Duncan Scott is forced to take the “King’s Shilling” and serve in epic battles against Napoleon’s fleet as a gunner. The deadly sea battles finally convince him he must give up fighting for “empire.”

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Railroad of Courage
Dan Rubenstein & Nancy Dyson

Twelve-year-old Rebecca makes a daring escape from slavery on the Underground Railroad to Canada, led by the famous Harriet Tubman, aided along the way by compassionate abolitionists.

978-1-55380-514-4 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-515-1 (EBOOK)  164 pp  $11.95

Youpi et ses bonbons
Philip Bay & Andrea Torrey Balsara

Wonderfully touching full-colour illustrations tell how Youpi, the pocket mouse, is bored when he goes with his friend Jean to a laundromat — until he joyfully succeeds in outwitting the jellybean machine.

978-1-55380-549-3 (HARDCOVER)  32 pp  $12.95  FRENCH LANGUAGE

Available from your favourite bookstore or order from PGC/Raincoast
Visit our website: www.ronsdalepress.com
Monique Gray Smith was awarded the Bolen Books Children’s Book Prize for Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation (Orca Books) and Bill Gaston received his second City of Victoria Butler Book Prize, this time for A Mariner’s Guide to Self-Sabotage (Douglas & McIntyre), at the 15th Victoria Book Prize Gala. Mayor Lisa Helps and co-sponsor Brian Butler presented the $5,000 Butler/Victoria prize; Samantha Holmes from Bolen Books presented the $5,000 children’s book prize.


The gala was again held at the Union Club of British Columbia and was hosted by CBC Radio’s GregorCraigie. Victoria’s poet laureate Yvonne Blomer opened the evening with a reading from her recent works. Additional sponsors included the Greater Victoria Public Library, Island Blue Print, Chateau Victoria, Magnolia Hotel and Spa, Inn at Laurel Point, Friesens Corporation and CBC Radio.

More info: www.victoriabookprizes.ca

In Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation, Gray Smith presents Canada’s collective history, present and future, for young readers who might encounter the concept and practice of reconciliation for the first time. Her book introduces the lives of residential school survivors and how the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission resulted in action for social change. She is a mixed-heritage woman of Cree, Lakota and Scottish ancestry who resides on Lekwungen territory. Her first novel, Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience, won the 2014 Burt Award for First Nations, Metis and Inuit Literature.

The gala was again held at the Union Club of British Columbia and was hosted by CBC Radio’s Gregor Craigie. Victoria’s poet laureate Yvonne Blomer opened the evening with a reading from her recent works. Additional sponsors included the Greater Victoria Public Library, Island Blue Print, Chateau Victoria, Magnolia Hotel and Spa, Inn at Laurel Point, Friesens Corporation and CBC Radio.

More info: www.victoriabookprizes.ca

**Medical trailblazer**

In her second book, City in Colour: Rediscovered Stories of Victoria’s Multicultural Past (Touchwood 2018), May Q. Wong offers succinct accounts of lives and families regarding people of colour and other racial minorities such as Canada’s first Jewish judge, Samuel Davies Schultz, and Canada’s first Chinese female doctor, Victoria Mea Chung. Chung’s father Sing Noon Chung, who worked as a labourer on the Canadian Pacific Railway until it was completed in 1885, was one of the first eleven Chinese people to be converted to Christianity in Victoria by missionary John E. Gardiner. Chung paid the $50 head tax for his wife to join him. At age five, their daughter Victoria was placed at the Rescue Home for Chinese Girls. Because Chinese were banned from practicing medicine and other professions in B.C., Victoria Mea Chung later took a scholarship to attend medical school at the University of Toronto in 1917, a year after Norman Bethune first attended. For 43 years she worked as a medical missionary in China. The City of Victoria declared Victoria Chung Day on October 8, 2012.

May Q. Wong’s A Cowherd in Paradise (Brindle & Glass, 2012) chronicles the lives of her parents, Wong Guey Dang (1902-1983) and Jiang Thoo (1911-2002). Married for over half a century, the couple was forced to live apart for twenty-five years because of Canada’s exclusionary immigration laws. Dang overcame discrimination to become a successful Montreal restaurateur.

VICTORIA CHUNG

**McCabe, Mrs Miller & misfits**

Many people know that the famous alcoholic Malcolm Lowry wrote most of his legendary novel Under the Volcano on the shoreline of North Vancouver at Dollarton, near Cates Park.

Few realize his squatter’s shack was the forerunner to a counter-cultural enclave of float houses and shacks on stilts that sprouted on the estuarial Maplewood Mudflats, much nearer to the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge, in the early 1970s. A Mariner’s Guide to Self-Sabotage (New Star/Transmontanus $24) tells the story of those who lived there, including history, present and future, for young readers who might encounter the concept and practice of reconciliation for the first time.

As well, on the southern banks of the Fraser River, above New Westminster, the Bridgeview neighbourhood briefly thrived as a mecca for those who were willing to live without basic amenities in exchange for communal freedom.

Mudflat Dreaming: Waterfront Battles and the Squatters Who Fought Them in 1970s Vancouver by Jean Walton (New Star/Transmontanus $24) tells the story of those two utopian experiments on Vancouver’s waterfront fringes. She also includes links between the Bridgeview and Maplewood communes and the making of McCabe and Mrs. Miller (1971), shot on Hollyburn Mountain, starring Warren Beatty and Julie Christie, with a soundtrack by Leonard Cohen. The movie provided work for some of the Maplewood residents.

978-1-77151-285-5
A state of books has lamented the deterioration of our national and provincial parks, from Scratchbacks by Sid Marty (1999) to Dale Portman's The Green Horse (2017). They are part of a much longer tradition of overtly conservationist writing in Canada, from Roderick Haig-Brown's The Living Land (1961) to the work of Fatley Mogay.

Now comes George Mercer’s Fat Cats, the fourth novel within his largely unnoticed conservationist series. His previous three park warden mysteries—Dyed in the Green (2015), Wood Buffalo (2016), and Jasper Wild (2017)—were set in Cape Breton Highlands, Wood Buffalo and Jasper national parks.

This time Mercer uses the beauty and natural bounty of little-known Sidney Island within the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve as the site and metaphor for dilemmas that arise when one mixes parks, environment, wild animals and human habituation.

That title, Fat Cats, is a teaser, as Mercer once more presents the dilemma confronting park wardens when conservation versus development issues arise. A cougar—the fat cat—has made its way to Sidney Island and is killing families of deer. Meanwhile there are also human fat cats about who are keen to place real estate values ahead of the natural environment. Park warden John Haffcut, fresh from clashes in Jasper National Park, must decide which predator is most worthy of protection.

The other main characters include a cougar mercenary versus a cougar tracker, a park superintendent, Indigenous leaders, politicians, wealthy landowners, park bureaucrats, an ex-military man and a widowed beauty of the human variety.

Fallow deer are taking over Sidney Island and wreaking havoc with plants and private gardens. How should these deer be culled? And how can the indigenous blacktail deer population be revived? Is hunting the way forward? Or will a cougar do the deed now that a cougar has sneaked across from nearby Vancouver Island?

John Haffcut emerges as a sort of environmental Sherlock Holmes, trying to solve the mystery of how to bring calm to the island. Questions arising from the death of an affluent landowner mount in intensity and the main actors on the stage collide and cooperate for different reasons.

“Who is hunting whom?”

Fat Cats probes, in intricate detail, layered motivations, tempers and ambiguous external challenges. The reader is drawn, page by page, to the nail-biting end of the novel as John Haffcut’s principled yet conflicted journey culminates in an unexpected ending.

I’ve been lucky enough to have read the first three books in this series and I join other expectant readers in anticipating future volumes. Rare are the writers who weave together academic and grand manner.

That title, Fat Cats, is a story of perseverance, personal fortitude and hope, through unfathomable childhood horrors, relocation, disability and marital breakdown, while defying well-defined female roles.

Ken Foster paints downtown Vancouver with grit and ecstasy. . . .

Terrific paintings, compelling story. — Robert Amos, author of E. J. Hughes Paints Vancouver Island

Two young Mexican lovers are polarized by a proposed nuclear plant. He is an activist, she a conservative reporter. Can the environment and a way of life be saved in face of the insatiable need for power?

Vancouver’s favourite critters have their courage tested on a fantastic, sea-swept journey across the Pacific to Japan. Sammy Squirrel and Rodney Raccoon: A Stanley Park Tale is on BCTF’s 100 Best Books (Elementary) list.

Parks and predators

“Conservation is as much an act of faith as an intellectual exercise.”

RODERICK HAIG-BROWN

That title, Fat Cats, is a story of perseverance, personal fortitude and hope, through unfathomable childhood horrors, relocation, disability and marital breakdown, while defying well-defined female roles.

Too Scared to Tell till Now

A story of perseverance, personal fortitude and hope, through unfathomable childhood horrors, relocation, disability and marital breakdown, while defying well-defined female roles.

Mariposa Intersections

Terrific paintings, compelling story. — Robert Amos, author of E. J. Hughes Paints Vancouver Island

Too Scared to Tell till Now

Two young Mexican lovers are polarized by a proposed nuclear plant. He is an activist, she a conservative reporter. Can the environment and a way of life be saved in face of the insatiable need for power?

Fat Cats: Book 4—Dyed In The Green Series by George Mercer

(Publisher and Distributor: granvilleislandpublishing.com)

978-1-926991-92-4 (pb)
978-1-926991-91-7 (pb)
978-1-989239-00-1 (e-book)
978-1-926991-98-6 (e-book)
978-1-926991-99-3 (e-book)
978-1-926991-93-1 (e-book)
Most closely entwined with Wash’s destiny is the Wilde family. Besides the savage Erasmus and the abolitionist Titch, it includes the patriarch James, an arctic explorer unwilling to communicate with his fellow men; his eccentric wife back at the family estate in England and a cousin, Philip, who visits the Faith plantation. It is Philip who seals Wash’s fate in Barbados.

It is giving too much away to describe how and why an F is branded onto our protagonist’s chest, or why there is a huge reward for his capture. Or how Titch engineers his escape. Or why Wash rejects his chance for freedom in Upper Canada and instead accompanies Titch to Hudson’s Bay. Eventually our hero reaches Nova Scotia in 1834 where slaves are technically free. The Slavery Abolition Act applies to British Colonies. The evil of racism persists in men such as John Willard who rails against the steam engine and extols a “natural order” that justifies one race dominating all others. As Titch once explained to Wash, “Freedom... is a word with different meanings to different people.” Gradually, we participate in the emergence of Wash’s understanding that abolition has not resulted in liberation:

...there could be no belonging for a creature such as myself, anywhere: a disfigured black boy with a scientific turn of mind and a talent on canvas, running, always running, from the dimmest of shadows.

On the shores of Labrador, after a fortuous meeting with a distinguished marine biologist and his daughter, Wash becomes a deep sea diver, bringing to the surface rare sea creatures, and even designing the glass tanks in which they can be displayed alive. The crowning achievement of his life is the creation of Ocean House in London, a gallery of aquatic life. As the story unfolds, Wash will witness the gruesome death of John Willard and embark on a quest to discover if Titch is still alive, but his major contribution to Ocean House will not be acknowledged, his name will be erased from the record. With much dexterity, Edugyan describes how her protagonist makes sense of injustices and cruelties. While the storyline is engaging, it is her imagination of his inner self that makes this story redolent with sophistication and empathy. An octopus provides the most resonant image for this novel. As Wash descends underwater he sees “a glaring orange creature radiating like a cloth set aflame, its arms beiling all around it, the suckers very white... an animal that can change itself to match its surroundings, just by contracting its skin.”

This meeting is poignant. He imagines this sentient female creature scarring “the sad rigidity of a boy, the uselessness of his hard inflexible bones.” But the octopus inks him playfully, and looking at him with her small gelatinous eyes, she swims directly into his hands. He tends to her lovingly; he brings her to England so that others might appreciate her beauty. Outside her natural medium, she cannot thrive. Watching her saddening decline, he sees “not the miraculous animal, but my own slow, relentless extinction.” This is a story that goes to great depths; it’s deserving of the attention it is receiving.
A Roman aristocrat named Titanius Varrus arrives in Britain not knowing who is to blame for the murders of his family and their servants, nor whom he can trust. Quintus Varrus never really liked his military grandfather, Titanius Varrus, grandfather of the family, carries with him a labarum (an official seal) that is known as ‘the Emperor’s license.’ It denotes its bearer is the chief culprit. Ultimately, fate will bring Rufus Cato, who has his counterpart readers will also follow Quintus and his forged identity is the major one, near the outset of this epic tale of intrigue, betrayal and passion, as Whyte tidies up a complex plot in which two different sets of characters finally mesh. But part of what we learn is that all is not quite revealed. So, does this mean a prequel?

Whyte has recently forewarned on CBC radio that he might not have another book in him. Meanwhile he has again masterfully melded legend, fact and fiction in his usual style in order to flesh out a shadowy time of which we know very little.

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.

*The Western Roman empire is generally believed to have existed until 476, a date popularized by the British historian Edward Gibbon. In that year the Roman Army in the West was defeated at the Battle of Ravenna by Odoacer who became the first King of Italy. The previous Western emperor, Julius Nepus was assassinated in 480, so 476 is considered a transition point between antiquity and the Middle Ages.*

T. AGE 52, JACK Whyte of Kelowna burst onto the writing stage with The Sky-stone (1992), the first of his projected quartet of Arthurian novels in a series to be called A Dream of Eagles, followed by his Templar and Guardian trilogies.

He has continued to look back. With more than twenty titles, in twenty languages, he is easily one of Canada's most widely-read historical novelists, although he is seldom given his due in CanLit circles.

New Whyte, at 78, has finally produced a prequel to The Skystone, going back to fourth-century London.

Fleeing the massacre of his entire family save a single uncle, a young Roman aristocrat named Quintus Varrus arrives in Britain not knowing who is to blame for the murders of his family and their servants, nor whom he can trust. Quintus Varrus never really liked his military grandfather. He didn’t have much to do with his father either. But both men were obviously involved in much more than young Quintus ever fathomed.

After unknown assassins have inexplicably burned down the family estate with a deadly fireball, Quintus, in disguise, wants to keep a low profile in London (London). There he meets the love of his life, a young Irish woman named Lydia Mcuil. Quintus will de-

**Long before King Arthur**

**Post-Roman Britain was a chaotic and harsh time—perfect for a Jack Whyte novel.**

By Cherie Thiessen

**The Burning Stone**

(Penguin Random House $36)

BY CHERIE THIESSEN

The burning stone shows what if Appius Endo is not really the ultimate enemy? Near the outset of The Burning Stone, Roman aristocrat Titanius Varrus, grandfather to our hero Quintus, has described the day he and his cohorts narrowly missed being killed by a screaming ball of fire that decimated the landscape and annihilated some 1,000 soldiers in a Roman legion.

The burning stone shows up again at the conclusion of this epic tale of intrigue, betrayal and passion, as Whyte tidies up a complex plot in which two different sets of characters finally mesh. But part of what we learn is that all is not quite revealed. So, does this mean a prequel?

Whyte has recently forewarned on CBC radio that he might not have another book in him. Meanwhile he has again masterfully melded legend, fact and fiction in his usual style in order to flesh out a shadowy time of which we know very little.

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EXASPERATING FRIENDS

They chafe, they subvert...
Oldness; or, the Last-Ditch Efforts of Marcus O

BY DUSTIN COLE

ging is a crisis, if you live that long. I am thirty-seven. When I think about being sixty-five years old, different things come to mind.

There is hope for artistic fulfillment and recognition. There are fears of hearing loss, polyps, cataract and colon removal. There is sombre resignation of the inevitable five-mile jog in the afternoon as debate against the sixpack to be had that evening.

Brett Josef Grubisic’s Oldness; or, the Last-Ditch Efforts of Marcus O is a comic novel that explores the subject of ageing. It is both flippant and learned, exhaustively current, cutting edge even, and learned, exhaustively of ageing. It is both flippant and serious, human, all too human.

Marcus O. In all his myriad years on as a sexagenarian? He started thinking. What might it be like for me ten years on? Is it a time to reflect, to attempt to represent himself and global rank: ‘Pluralistic utopian crystalline forms, exotic geometry that evoked promise of unuttered potential, fantastical elements of engineering whimsy along with the earthen and subterranean that promoted a perennial reverent organic unity with the biosphere. A mindful city of mind at the edge of a coastal city of spun glass. What map nomenclature. Luminous with plentitude and potential, secular cathedrals where neediness of last mystery had been explained.’

When reading contemporary, research-heavy fiction, I think I realize how the highfalutin’ author knocking down at the archive or haunting the rare books room. At no time did I get the sense this book was a compendium of mulish research, an achievement unto itself.

Cerebral as hell, Oldness is a portrait of a hapless brainiac rendered with stylish derring do.

Dustin Cole of Slave Lake, Alberta, is writing a novel, Notice, set in Vancouver about a student being evicted by his shady landlords, his subsequent insolvency, and his realization that Vancouver is far from a ‘Super Natural’ utopia.
SEASON’S READINGS

Out of the Woods
Woodworkers along the Salish Sea
Pirjo Raits; photographs by Dale Roth and Michele Ramberg
A breathtaking profile of 26 woodcarvers whose art—from finely crafted furniture to abstract sculpture to Indigenous masterworks—draws inspiration from the natural beauty of the Salish Sea.

“The carvers on these pages [show] amazing versatility that goes miles beyond craftsmanship.”—Robert Bateman
Heritage House | $34.95 pb

On the Rocks with Jack Knox
Islander I Will Never Forget
Jack Knox
Times Colonist columnist Jack Knox shows his more serious side in this humane and heart-expanding collection of true stories about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people.
Heritage House | $30.50 pb | $15.99 ebook

A Not-So-Savage Land
The Art and Times of Frederick Whymper, 1838–1901
Peter Johnson
A fascinating look at the early colonial Northwest through the eyes of an apprentice engraver from London who became the official artist for survey expeditions to BC, Alaska, and Siberia.
Heritage House | $24.95 pb

The Flora and Fauna of Coastal BC and the Pacific Northwest
Collin Varner
Over 800 common plant and animal species are represented in this concise and beautifully illustrated field guide by UBC horticulturist Collin Varner.
Heritage House | $39.95 pb

Miles to Go
Beryl Young
A poignant story of friendship, loss, and loyalty in 1940s Saskatchewan by the critically acclaimed author of Follow the Elephant, winner of the Chocolate Lily Award.
Heritage House / Wandering Fox | $12.95 pb | $9.99 ebook

As a Dog Thinketh
Daily Words of Wisdom for Dog People
Monique Anstee
Surprisingly refreshing advice for dog people delivered in daily doses. Monique Anstee has distilled 25 years of dog-training experience into this beautiful book full of smart, direct advice for all your dog-related conundrums.

“Must read”—Modern Dog
TouchWood Editions | $22 pb | $9.99 ebook

Sorrowful Sanctuary
A Lane Winslow Mystery (#5)
Iona Whishaw
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Robert William Sandford
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We are pleased to announce that Cecily Nicholson’s complex, sensitive book *Wayside Sang* has won the 2018 Governor General’s Literary Award for English-Language Poetry!

“In this hypnotic suite of long poems, Cecily Nicholson makes room, offering glimpses and echoes of the Canadian landscape as she explores ideas of borders, identity, industry and travel. She offers a catalogue of impressions, a collage of the ephemeral, held together by image and the pulsing phrase that stays with you long after the journey’s over.”

–2018 Governor General’s Award Jury

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"Linda Rogers’ Crow Jazz affirms that the liminal space/time dislocation experience is not necessarily a psychological state peculiar to people who give personal names to their bongs."

Crow Jazz affirms that this liminal space/time dislocation experience is not necessarily a psychological state peculiar to people who give personal names to their bongs.

Unlike most contemporary short stories, in Crow Jazz a lot happens in a brief time... While digging in her garden, an old lady passes on seeds of wisdom to a young girl, then lies down in the grave she’s been digging. A gaggle of half-wild girls, raised by parents who didn’t get haircuts and become stockbrokers when the Sixties ended in 1979, takes hilarious revenge on sluggish, thuggish neighbourhood boys. A man’s living room window, in which he may or may not have been displaying his body, is mysteriously shattered, possibly but not definitely by a bullet, which leads to scenes with the police that could’ve been written by Harold Pinter. And so it goes. Stories in Crow Jazz take place in what are sometimes called “liminal spaces,” though the term is a misnomer that actually refers to a moment in time when an individual unexpectedly experiences a mundane familiar place in an intensely new way, as a setting configured for some unpredictable drama. It’s like when you walk into Costco and feel that you’ve just entered a huge alien spacecraft full of signs and signals that are familiar but invested with totally new significance.

Liminal moments are inevitably accompanied by a touch of paranoia resulting from novel perceptions and uncertainty about how to react, which Rogers delineates with a poet’s eye for telling detail.
New from Tradewind Books

Nicola Campbell illustrated by Julie Flett

Winner: Global Read Aloud Choice 2018
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"The distinct and unbreakable resiliency of Indigenous people is affirmed in this loving portrait of generational courage and fortitude." — Quill & Quire

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"In 1942 Vancouver, British Columbia, a friendship starts to fall apart just as hatred and suspicion are increasing against Japanese-Canadians...It’s a lovely, old-fashioned–feeling story, focused squarely on the girls’ friendship, that acknowledges danger and injustice." — Kirkus Reviews

"Mariko Ando’s evocative black-and-white illustrations add to the charm of this sweet and haunting story." — Quill & Quire

Nhung H. Tran-Davies

Thirteen-year-old Yen and her family have survived the ravages of the Vietnam War and the ensuing famine and persecution. After a flood destroys their village, her family decides to take the ultimate risk on the high seas for a chance at a better life.
The George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature

The $2,000 George Ryga Award is an annual literary prize for a B.C. writer who has achieved an outstanding degree of social awareness in a new book published in 2018. A B.C. writer is someone who has lived in British Columbia for three of the past five years. Ebooks are ineligible. There are no entry fees. Applicants can simply send three copies of the book for the judges prior to December 15.

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A public presentation ceremony at the Vancouver Public Library is held in conjunction with the annual George Woodcock Life-Time Achievement Award.

More info: bcbookawards.ca
Barry Gough of Victoria has continued his high-quality output with the publication of his character study, *Churchill and Fisher: The Titans at the Admiralty who Fought the First World War*, a 656-page dual biography of the political head of the Royal Navy, Winston Churchill, and the professional master of the navy, John Arbuthnot Fisher.

Writing in the *Times Literary Supplement*, Jan Morris has declared Gough’s dual biography about the early 20th century relationship between Churchill and Fisher as “enthralling” and “a work of profound scholarship and interpretation.”

As Barry Gough investigates how the two friends clashed over World War One strategies, he delves deeply into the collisions of their temperaments. When Churchill became First Lord of the Admiralty, the Navy’s political chief, Fisher was its First Sea Lord, its professional chief. The book chiefly arose from access to Jacky Fisher’s papers.

In June 2018, *Churchill and Fisher* was co-winner of the Keith Matthews Award of the Canadian Nautical Research Society for best book published in 2017. The other 2018 Matthews Award winner was Michael and Anita Hadley’s *Spindrift: A Canadian Book of the Sea* (D&M) that was reviewed by Theo Dombrowski in The Ormsby Review (#196, November 6, 2017).

For a complete review of Churchill and Fisher, visit The Ormsby Review.

**A DAEMONIC DUO**

Winston Churchill and John Fisher

**Barry Gough of Victoria** has continued his high-quality output with the publication of his character study, *Churchill and Fisher: The Titans at the Admiralty who Fought the First World War* by Barry Gough (James Lorimer $39.95)

As Barry Gough investigates how the two friends clashed over World War One strategies, he delves deeply into the collisions of their temperaments. When Churchill became First Lord of the Admiralty, the Navy’s political chief, Fisher was its First Sea Lord, its professional chief. The book chiefly arose from access to Jacky Fisher’s papers.

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For a complete review of Churchill and Fisher, visit The Ormsby Review.

**KOOTENAY LIVES**

In *Growing Home: The Legacy of Kootenay Elders* (Growing Home Elders Press $26.95), Lee Reid profiles seventeen men and women, born between the 1920s and 1950s, who have made their lives in the West Kootenay—among them author Tom Wayman, Doukhobors Ellie Lazareff, Pete and Shirley Relkoff. Many of those profiled overcame trauma by finding solace in the land.
Tales of great-great-great engineer father to soak up the Fraser Canyon with his bonanza on the Fraser River during the California gold rush, to the next Oregon and California in the spring of 1858: THE FRAZER BAR, and others.

Later, Marshall became a scholar of gold rush history and came to realize the fact: during the chaotic summer of 1858, American miners received wisdom and stories of white California, news of what was never featured in any newspaper headlines. In Oregon and California in the spring of 1858: THE FRAZER RIVER GOLD MINES—GREAT EXPLORATIONIST CAMPAIGNS, Marshall writes, “The press reports went on to say that Indigenous women were panning out $10 to $12 of gold a day. To the patriarchal world of white California, news of Native women accruing such wealth encouraged the notion that gold on the Fraser River was easily obtainable.”

Word spread throughout the US, eastern Canada, Europe and beyond.

The Fraser River gold rush was the third great mass migration of gold seekers that the world had seen, following rushes in Australia and California. A glance at a Fraser Canyon map from 1858 illustrates just who was doing most of the panning at Ohio Bar, Sacramento Bar, Washington Bar, American Bar, New York Bar, Fifty-four Forty Bar, Boston Bar, Texas Bar, and others. At least 30,000 Americans swept north across the 49th parallel, by sea and overland; some argue it was actually thousands more because there was no colonial authority on the mainland at the time. However, the Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) was on the scene, conducting a fur and salmon trade with First Nations partners. Indeed, HBC had previously bought gold from Indigenous people. They had discovered the gold, and were the first miners.

The California 49ers were coming from—and through—a region aflame with what were known as Indian wars. The U.S. Military was clearing a corridor in a campaign of extermination. At first there was an “unspoken detente” north of the 49th between Indigenous people and the miners, but as the rush moved higher into the Thompson region, conflict erupted.

Headless bodies of miners floated in the Fraser River. At least five native villages were torches by militias. In one engagement 36 Indigenous people were killed, 5 chiefs among them. During an interview Daniel Marshall recounts digging deep into U.S. archives in the Pacific Slope region to uncover more about this little-known war.

“Quite a number of my professors pooh-poohed this notion,” he writes, “but I started to accumulate the kind of evidence that was never featured in the colonial correspondence for the Colony of Vancouver Island or British Columbia. Where did those miners send their letters, and samples of Fraser River gold? Where did their letters and samples of Fraser River gold? Where did their letters end up? All south was wiping out Indigenous people. Marshall thinks a larger war would have ended badly.

160 years ago, if James Douglas wasn’t there and Indigenous people hadn’t fought back, this could very well have become part of the USA. American troops would have come into the Fraser Canyon with Howitzers.”

Claiming the Land further excavates the three main elements of 1858—the doomed fur trade, Californian and British. Marshall makes an argument that the gold rush, with its north/south flow, precipitated the need for an east/west Canada to the Pacific that came to be in 1871. “Manifest Destiny” wasn’t far behind. He also reminds us how everything changed for Indigenous peoples in 1858, something we continue to grapple with today.

Marshall is an adjunct assistant professor at UVIC who takes his students into the Fraser Canyon to experience the landscape and its stories from Indigenous perspectives. He was the chief curator of the Royal B.C. Museum exhibit: Gold Rush: El Dorado in B.C. 978-1-55380-502-1

Mark Forsythe co-authored The Trail of 1858 (Harbour, 2007) with Greg Dixon.

This monument in Lytton pays tribute to Chief David Spintlum (Cexpe’nthlEm, 1812-1887), now regarded as the greatest chief of the Thompson First Nations Peoples in recent times), who understood the bigger picture: violence to the south was wiping out Indigenous people. Marshall thinks a larger war would have ended badly.

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Mark Forsythe co-authored The Trail of 1858 (Harbour, 2007) with Greg Dixon.
“Black Star” by Maureen Medved is a searing critique of sexual exploitation, manipulation, and the subtle machinations of power that play through the lens of academia. $20 | 978-1-77214-612-6

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November release “Trauma Head” is Ellee Kraljić Gardiner’s long poem memoir about her experience of surviving a vertebral artery dissection and stroke. $18 | 978-1-77214-122-1
WALK IN THEIR SHOES

A conversation via letters leads to understanding and the possibility for reconciliation.

Kuei, My Friend: A Conversation on Race and Reconciliation by Deni Ellis Béchard and Natasha Kanapé Fontaine, translated by Deni Ellis Béchard and Howard Scott (Talonbooks $19.95)

BY DYLAN BURROWS

Not all books are intentional.
Some arise accidentally, or tragically. In 2015, an 11-year old Ojibwe girl named Makaya Sault died of leukemia after her parents had refused chemotherapy on her behalf. Contrary to her physician’s wishes, Makaya’s parents had sought tradition-"Indian"—the French for Indigenous culture in a blog as "deadly" and "unscientific.

At a literary event, Innu poet Natasha Kanapé Fontaine read aloud her own work. "Trichloroethylene," she wrote, was a "wound of Colonization." The "vile, genocidal, alienating intention" behind Canada’s reservations and Indian residential school system, she writes, "is not something you can soothe away with homeopathy."

As Béchard reveals, his grandmother had once told him his ancestors "walked like Indians." Rather than assume this meant to "walk like an Indian," Béchard’s family adapted to the customs of Indigenous lands.

"One day, perhaps," she writes, "Quebécois will understand what it means to ‘walk like an Indian.’" Béchard’s answer is anticlimactic: "Indigeneity is tied to an openness to other intellectual and cultural traditions outside his own.

KUEI, MY FRIEND also includes a chronology of events that led to the establishment of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; an English to Innuaimun lexicon, and questions and exercises for educators to use in the classroom. Ultimately Kuei, My Friend pursues honest, open-ended dialogue over political expediency. Through their letters, Béchard and Fontaine chart future possibilities for reconciliation. Their letters shake up the stultified debate spurred by the 2015 publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) of Canada’s final report.

Although political leaders quickly recognized the TRC’s damning conclusions, few have paid more than lip service to implementing its 94 calls to action.

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I freely understand the pleasure of building with other women. The first time I worked on a team in construction, after five years of working exclusively with men, was a revelation. With a woman, I didn't have to prove myself over and over. I could openly express my delight in a well-built wall, and I didn't have to prove to myself that I wasn't just there for the prestige of learning to build.

Our first project was an extensive renovation of an old homestead, including energy auditing, building a new roof, and installing a new heating system. It was a large undertaking, but it was also a chance to work closely with other women, to share ideas and skills.

We worked together for several years, becoming more comfortable with each other's strengths and weaknesses. Our projects became more ambitious, including a new building for a local community group and a large-scale urban development.

Through our work, we discovered that women's perspectives on construction were different from those of men. We were more likely to consider the environment and human needs in our designs, and we found that these ideas made our buildings more sustainable and liveable.

As we grew in confidence, we began to take on larger projects, including a new community centre and a significant urban development. We found that working together as women allowed us to overcome many of the challenges that had faced us in the past, and to achieve much more.

Our success inspired others to join us, and we began to mentor and teach women who wanted to learn more about construction. We were proud to be part of a growing movement that was changing the face of the construction industry.

And yet, we knew that there was still much work to be done. We knew that women were underrepresented in the construction industry, and that many women faced barriers to entry. We continued to work hard to break down these barriers, and to promote women's participation in construction.

Our work was not always easy, but it was always rewarding. We were proud to have changed the way that women were viewed in the construction industry, and to have shown that women could build beautiful, sustainable, and liveable buildings.

And we will continue to work towards a future where women are fully included in the construction industry, and where everyone can enjoy the benefits of well-designed, well-built buildings.
NEW AND TIMELESS EKSTASIS TITLES FROM THE DEEP WELL OF THE IMAGINATION

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Buffy Sainte-Marie was born on Saskatchewan’s Cree Piapot reserve in 1941.

Blacklisted by two American presidents, the Universal Soldier songwriter breathed her child on Sesame Street in 1977 and won a Best Song Oscar in 1983 for Up Where We Belong.

"After all, I’ve seen the almost impossible become possible in really big ways."

Some sixty hours of interviews occurred face-to-face, over the phone and via the internet. Additionally, Warner joined Sainte-Marie on two tours, one on the east coast and one on the west. Jazz-oriented accounts and reviews from the past fifty years supplement her interviews, along with citations from Sainte-Marie’s colleagues, peers and childhood friends.

In an afterward, Warner glowingly describes her "lovely little friend" with Buffy Sainte-Marie and acknowledges that "together we’ve made a book." We are told, "Buffy has combed every inch of this book, every page bears her fingerprints, and I can hear her voice at every turn." Warner praises and empathizes, and she does not challenge her subject’s perspectives. Where Sainte-Marie is reticent to delve into her relationships with members of the American Indian Movement, and two of her three marriages, Warner tackles softly. Similarly, Warner does not explore in detail any of the contentious relations Sainte-Marie had with the music industry, notably Vanguard Records, with whom she released her first works.

But Warner does capture her subject’s spirit and energy. She never lets us forget that Sainte-Marie was and is forever an innovator. Cons consisely and clearly, Warner reviews her selected tracks bringing to the page the musical compositions that thunder and whisper, circling back through fifty years to remind us that the issues Sainte-Marie contested in the 1960s are the social and political challenges we face today. 9781776452560

Jo-Anne Fiske of Fraser Lake has worked extensively with First Nations in central B.C. since the 1970s. With Betty Patrick she co-wrote Cis dideen Kat—When the Plumes Rise: The Way of the Lake Babine Nation (2000).

Written in 1962 and released in 1964, “Universal Soldier” condemned America’s war in Vietnam and became one of two protest anthems that defined Sainte-Marie’s musical and political agendas in the 1960s and 70s. On the same album, “Now that the Buffalo’s Gone” was compelling in its indictment of injustices perpetrated against Indigenous people. The song was motivated by a treaty violation to build Kinna Dam in Seneca territory. Buffalo’s Gone” was compelling in its and political agendas in the 1960s that defined Sainte-Marie’s musical became one of two protest anthems that defined Sainte-Marie’s musical and political agendas in the 1960s and 70s. On the same album, “Now that the Buffalo’s Gone” was compelling in its indictment of injustices perpetrated against Indigenous people. The song was motivated by a treaty violation to build Kinna Dam in Seneca territory. Buffalo’s Gone” was compelling in its and political agendas in the 1960s that defined Sainte-Marie’s musical became one of two protest anthems that defined Sainte-Marie’s musical

Andrea Warner traces personal experiences to motivations for particular lyrics and technological innovations for particular lyrics. Sainte-Marie’s birth on the Cree Piapot reserve in Saskatchewan in 1941, to her adoption by Albert and Winnifred (nee Dessert) Sainte-Marie—who raised her in Maine and Massachusetts—through her studies in Oriental philosophy and education, to her home life in Hawaii with a herd of goats. The “Universal Soldier” was inspired when—a flight from Mexico to Toronto—Saint-Marie met wounded American soldiers returning from Vietnam. "Cod’ine" speaks to her personal negative experience with opiates, but also stands as a critique of shifting music culture from coffee houses to bars, which views as undermining the student culture that supported political change. Warner addresses the blacklist of Sainte-Marie by two American presidents, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, when the FBI kept files on her close ties with the American Indian Movement, and considers the impact that political advocacy had on her career, notably in the 1980s when her popularity waned. Two chapters introduce Sainte-Marie, covering her childhood and youth. Another fifteen chapters cover the content and techniques of selected recordings, and the origins of songs. "Interludes" is a chapter of excerpts from Warner's interviews with Sainte-Marie. Through it all, Sainte-Marie’s creativity and optimism shine. "But I love the world and I love people, I really do." Sainte-Marie says toward the close.
A HIKING WE WILL GO

A great guidebook often goes unheralded.

105 Hikes in and Around Southwestern British Columbia by Stephen Hui; foreword by T’uy’t'tanat Cease Wyss (Greystone $24.95)

Way back when, Mary Macaree and David Macaree co-wrote 103 Hikes in Southwestern B.C. (Mountaineers Books/B.C. Mountaineering Club), a classic regional title that has reputedly sold more than 120,000 copies since 1973. The couple’s often whimsical and beguiling text accounted for much of the book’s appeal. As members of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club since 1964, they also wrote 109 Walks in B.C.’s Lower Mainland (D&M 1980).

In 1972, there was a predecessor to the Macaree’s book, Mountain Trail Guide for the South West Mainland Area of B.C., published by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. A version of the Macaree’s book, titled 103 Hikes in Southwestern B.C.: Revised and Updated by Jack Bryceland, listing Mary and David Macaree as co-authors, appeared on the BC Top Ten Bestseller list in 2008.

In 2014, Greystone Books published 109 Walks in British Columbia’s Lower Mainland, credited to the Macarees with Alice Purdey. Now Stephen Hui has carried on the Macaree’s legacy in 105 Hikes in and Around Southwestern British Columbia, an expanded follow-up version with an additional selection of trails on the islands and in Washington’s North Cascades. 105 Hikes covers a wider area and wider range of abilities than its predecessor.

In 1940 to 1946, first in the Mediterranean Sea, then the Indian Ocean and later with the Commandos in continental Europe. David married Mary Watson in 1949, and in 1955 they immigrated to Prince George, first teaching in northern British Columbia before moving to Vancouver. Mary went back to school, graduated from UBC and became head librarian at the MacMillan Library at UBC. David joined the UBC Department of English as a lecturer, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1965, and taught as an associate professor of English at UBC from 1970 to 1985. He died on Dec 9, 1998. In 2003, the David Macaree Award for Improved Dementia Care, worth $500, from the Alzheimer’s Society, was created by Mary in honour of David, who had dementia. Mary died on July 31, 2008 due to complications from a stroke.

CELEBRATING AND RESPECTING DIVERSE AND WOMEN’S VOICES

CAITLIN PRESS & DAGGER EDITIONS
Cooking without Mom
A Survival Cookbook
The Hen Party
This classic cookbook is a great gift for those leaving home for the first time, a life saver for individuals who have lost their partners and a starting point for retirees taking up the challenges of the kitchen.

In this new edition, over 150 recipes better reflect today's cooking trends with valuable info on domestic adulting skills. Don't let your child leave home without it! Valuable info on domestic adulting skills.

Available now through your favourite BC bookstore!

Okanagan Lake
An Illustrated Exploration
Above and Below the Waters
Raphael Nowak
Here's the first comprehensive book ever written about Okanagan Lake featuring the geology, biology, limnology and history of the lake. Over 300 colour photographs illustrate everything from plant and fish species to underwater features of the lake bottom using deep water cameras. Lake transportation, two floating bridges, islands, shoreline features and lake mysteries are also examined in this incredibly detailed book.

Kootenay Trips & Trails
Murphy Shephuck
This amazing guide to southeastern BC's Kootenay-Columbia region will keep you exploring and enthralled with this rich area for years. Information on hiking and recreational opportunities range from the US Boundary north to Valemount, and from the height of the Rockies west to the Okanagan - with maps, GPS reference points, detailed descriptions and vivid colour photographs. A must-have BC guide book.

Tiger, Tiger
A Life Restored by Nature
Patrick Walter Herzog
For decades, the author tracked wild animals until being bushwhacked by cancer. After experimental treatment, he was lost in the wilderness of fatigue and brain fog. Wildlife art, and a chance encounter with a tiger, awoke his passion for wildlife, and soon the undeniable healing power of nature took hold and saved his life.

Shared Histories
Witsuwit'en- Settler Relations in Smithers, BC 1913-1973
Tyler McCreary
Shared Histories looks deeply into what happened at the intersection of settler dreams and Witsuwit'en reality. Planted in a swamp at the base of a mountain in 1913, the railway town tried to exclude the region's first inhabitants. These hidden histories reveal how generations of Witsuwit'en made a place for themselves despite local, provincial and national efforts to push them, and indeed all indigenous peoples, to the fringes.

Mapping Your Retirement Road
Larry R. Lovis
This no-nonsense guide to a financially better life is written by an experienced financial advisor and appeals to a wide audience from young people planning for the future, boomers approaching retirement and anyone already in retirement. Written in a straightforward, entertaining style, the author guides readers to the heart of the actions needed to find true financial independence.

Mixed Critters
An ABC Book
Jeff Chiba-Stearns
Inspired by his own multiracial heritage, award-winning author and illustrator, Jeff Chiba Stearns, introduces readers to mixed identity by blending together various animals. Through the imaginative depictions of hybrid animals from A to Z, children are introduced to notions of racial mixing and blending in an accessible and creative way.

2018 Vine Children's Book Award

Deborah Katz
CONGRATULATIONS to Vancouver author Deborah Katz, who has won the $10,000 prize in the 2018 Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature in the young adult/children's lit category. Rare is Everywhere takes readers on a journey through the animal kingdom – and teaches children about physical diversity and how our differences make us spectacular.
Thought provoking books available on

Mudgirls Manifesto: Handbuilt Homes, Handcrafted Lives
by The Mudgirls Natural Building Collective (New Society $29.99)
A group of west coast rebel women decided to teach themselves how to build houses using the most abundant material on earth — mud. They’d learn by building, gathering skills and allies. They’d have fun, sharing whatever they learned with whoever wanted to come along for the ride. The Mudgirls revolution was born. Mudgirls Manifesto is about respecting the earth, each other, crafting meaningful lives and a practical guide to building natural homes for real people.

Ordinary Strangers: a novel
by Bill Stenson
(Mother Tongue $23.95)
This astonishing novel begins on a hot August day in 1971. Sage and Della Howard are driving to Fernie to start a job and begin a new life. They stop for a break, lose their dog and in the search find a crying toddler in the nearby woods instead. They take the child and continue on their way. As the years pass, the Howards keep their dark secret and raise the child as their own. Winner of the 4th Great B.C. Novel Contest.

From Rinks to Regiments: Hockey Hall-of-Famers and the Great War
by Alan Livingstone MacLeod (Heritage House $19.95)
Thirty players, one referee, and one builder now enshrined in the Hockey Hall of Fame were also soldiers in World War I. Most of them served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force that distinguished itself on the battlefields of Ypres, the Somme, Vimy and Passchendaele. From Rinks to Regiments tells these remarkable stories of their contributions on both the ice and the frontlines.

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After Becky Livingston lost her daughter Rachel (below) to a brain tumour, she set off on a global walkabout for 798 days, scattering Rachel’s ashes a bit at a time, a fiercely loving mother trying to find her way.

This book is for griever and travellers, mothers and daughters, lovers and wanderers, and for anyone who has ever considered that, “You think you know the shape of your life but one day the whole f----- thing falls apart.” — CARYS CRAGG

**The Suitcase and the Jar: Travels with a Daughter’s Ashes by Becky Livingston**

( Caitlin Press $24.95)

**BY CARYS CRAGG**

Eighteen months after her daughter’s death, Becky Livingston set forth on a journey to continue her daughter Rachel’s dying wishes to keep travelling. The Suitcase and the Jar is a contemplation of grieving itself. Readers may be reminded of Blue Nights (2011), perhaps David Wagoner’s “For the Traveller” by John O’Donohue: A list of “Books, Songs, and Poems” in the back pages, or available online, would be an added resource for the reader, because many works are referenced but not cited, likely for copyright reasons.

Back and forth, between past and present, the transitions are seamless. In one sentence, Livingston describes how her daughter liked to fly, and in the following paragraph, Livingston is waiting to board a plane. The constant movement from one continent to the next risks disorienting the reader, but Livingston anchors us with a repeating action: the scattering of her daughter’s ashes in yet-to-be determined locations.

As Livingston lets go of the past, she lets go of her daughter, giving her to the world to carry forward. She likes to think that Rachel is “playing in the shifting sands, caught between your children’s toes or carried home in a castle-shaped pail. All of us carrying away.”

At times, The Suitcase and the Jar reads as poetry. “Her ashes like asteroids pit the bleached sand.” Her 22 relatively short chapters contrast with one lengthy one. She frequently uses fragmented sentences—“My despair fully exposed…Just one more step…Keep going…Risk life for just one more day”—which mirror the fragile, contemplative nature of grief itself.

Livingston is both brave and imperfect as she both describes and experiences the narrative of your life’s control. She is both a person like me.” — CARYS CRAGG

She describes moments that are brutally real, exquisitely painful, and authentic in a way that anyone who has lost someone close will immediately recognize. Helping deepen the narrative, Livingston frequently refers to the music playing within particular memories and to books she has read that resonated in some way. She also quotes from poems ("Grief" by Stephen Dobyns, “Lost” by David Wagoner, “For the Traveller” by John O’Donohue) and to books she has read and works are referenced but not cited, likely for copyright reasons.

Livingston is both brave and imperfect as she both changes the narrative of your life’s control. She is both a person like me.” — CARYS CRAGG

This review is a Book Prize finalist. 29 BC Bookworld Winter 2018-2019
FROM PUNJAB TO WILLIAMS LAKE

In the Trump era when alt-right movements have gained traction, Gian Singh Sandhu’s *An Uncommon Road* gives hope to minority groups who continue to grapple with racism and bigotry.

O Canada Crosswords 19
Take the Torch
What the Poets Are Doing
Difficult People
The Abandoned
Bec & Call
What Your Hands Have Done

$.95
$.22
$.22
$.19
$.19
$.89
$.89
$.18

Nightwood Editions presents puzzles, politics, poetry and more.

Available at your local bookstore.

www.nightwoodeditions.com
much of the book is focused on the different aspects of Aboriginal law. Reynolds fills a gap in the literature on Aboriginal law in Canada. The options available to the interested reader until now have been brief articles on law firm websites and in academic journals, or fat and very expensive law school texts. Until now, there has been nothing in the middle, or a book of moderate length and price.

In his study, Reynolds adopts the succinct definition of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: “Each Indigenous nation across the country has its own laws and legal traditions. Aboriginal law is the body of law that exists with the Canadian legal system.”

Reynolds, who is Associate Counsel at Mandell Pinder LLP in Vancouver, notes that Canadian courts have yet to incorporate a substantive amount of Indigenous law into their deliberations.

Each of the first seven chapters deals with a different aspect of Aboriginal law: definitions, background, sovereignty, Aboriginal rights and title, treaties, consultation, and international law. In the eighth and final chapter, “A Just Society?” Reynolds offers his own opinions, based on a long career representing First Nations in B.C., especially the Musqueam people of Vancouver. Reynolds shares his thoughts on the present state of Aboriginal law, its past achievements, and future prospects, a refreshing change from the existing literature, which typically denies any voice to the author.

While the judiciary is entitled to great respect, most commentators are overly deferential, and to Reynolds’ credit he does not shy away from criticizing the path followed by Canadian courts in the development of Aboriginal law.

Aboriginal Peoples & the Law will appeal to law students wanting a handy “Coles Notes” summary of the principles of Aboriginal law. In fact, Reynolds goes so far as to end each chapter with a one-page set of bullet points under the heading “To Sum Up,” which is in effect a summary of a summary.

Aboriginal Peoples & the Law should also attract serious students in other disciplines, such as anthropology and political science, who might want a well-written overview of a complex subject. However, there are no colourful anecdotes or intriguing case studies to help the reader through a topic that is admittedly a tough slog.

9780774880213

Neil Vallance earned his Ph.D. from the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. His dissertation was on the Vancouver Island (also known as the "Douglas") Treaties of 1850 to 1854. He now writes occasional expert reports for First Nations claiming breaches of their treaty rights.

Aboriginal Peoples & the Law: A Critical Introduction by Jim Reynolds (UBC Press/Purich Books $29.95)

BY NEIL VALLANCE
Tobin's 1995 painting, and bright imagery of

and prose by

find 43 more pages of poetry

tumble book (or flip book), you

ing new poems by

Columbia.

 Arsenal,

Charles Demers

Scribbler

(Talonbooks, 2015)

tobiography, biography, and

poetry, fiction, history, au-

books, including works of

authored more than eighty

low writers, Bowering has

editor, professor, historian,

distinguished novelist, poet,

in the Okanagan Valley. A

One of her goals is to encourage

guide and sea kayak instructor.

Trinidad-born Streetly lives on a

be the operative word since the

ranges faster than the heart.

We're reading our next books.

It reassuring to see these
two veteran writers, in their
eighties, laughing together in
departing photo from their Vancou-
ver book launch this year.

George Bowering recalls that:

I can’t take politics seri-

ously, at 82 I’m too preoccupied

with my own mortality. But I

can go “meta”—I can take your
taking politics seriously.

Stanley and Bowering also

address poems to each other.

Bowering’s starts, “I’ll be in

your poem if you’ll be in mine,”

and Stanley responds with his

“Letter to George Bowering:

Yet out my window the

building across Balclayava

loses books used to occupy

building across Balaclava

to lean

When you flip over this

Rhenisch

Vernon has been described by

Constitutional: Poems from

North of Summer,” which

ends:

The grave wherein my pen

pal is laid lies at the bottom of a

country road saying his name.

It can turn your eyes from

dark to blue.

Three years ago he was

walking his dog, Mickey, when

he collapsed from a cardiac

arrest outside the West Point

Grey Library. Ivy Zhang, a

Grade 8 student, and others

helped to get him medical at-
tention in time to save his life

and aid in his recovery.

In “Speech Language,” he
detects “...a new understand-
ing that something awful/

this way comes with appetite

for you.”

I especially enjoyed his

in “To a Young Voter,”

for me/ in sentences.”

We also

learn, though, that he fell into

a coma for two weeks and that:

Being in a coma can play

havoc with your sense of time.

It can turn your eyes from

brown to blue.

The Two Georges at People’s Coop Bookstore, Vancouver, March 2018.

George Bowering is his

tenth book of poetry.

BOWERING’S HALF CONTAINS A

table of contents; George Stan-

ley’s does not.

Early in Bowering’s section

he reveals, “The world speaks to

me in sentences.” We also

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I

T is always difficult for an adult to review a children’s book objectively because they are not the intended audience. *Up In Arms* by Amanda Spottiswoode reminded me a little of the Enid Blyton stories of my own childhood, where children—temporarily free of parental guidance—banded together to have a rip-roaring adventure coupled with a dose of morality and important life lessons learned. *Up In Arms* is none the worse for that comparison.

In 1939 and 1940, some 6,000 British children, known as child evacuees and British guest children, were sent to Canada to escape the threat of German invasion. The practice was stopped in September 1940 with the sinking of SS *City of Benares* by a U-Boat and the loss of 77 children.

*Up In Arms* recounts the adventures of six child evacuees on Vancouver Island. This fictional story follows the fortunes of the MacTavish and Phillips children who are sent to Vancouver Island on their own to escape the dangers facing Britain and Europe during the Second World War.

We follow the adventures of Sophie, Molly, Mark, Harriet, Leticia, and Posy as they journey across the Atlantic, across Canada, and settle into their new lives. The first half of the book feels more “tell” than “show,” with a lot of ground being covered through exposition rather than action.

The second half of the story warms up nicely, especially once the children leave Victoria and commence their exploits on the west coast of Vancouver Island, first with an encounter with the legendary, real-life character Cougar Annie and then with a group of First Nations children who come to their aid. Indigenous history and the impact of colonial policies, such as the potlatch ban and the confiscation of Indigenous regalia, are melded into the story.

Experiencing the eyes of children an alien culture, replete with eccentric coastal characters, provides an engaging backdrop to Spottiswoode’s adventures.

Given that the book is set in the 1940s, inevitably there are some gender stereotypes; but Molly, the eldest of our heroines, becomes an accomplished pilot, and her flying prowess subsequently forms a crucial part of the plot.

*Up In Arms* is the latest in a series—that includes *Brother XII’s Treasure* and *The Silver Lining*—involving these same plucky young adventurers from the MacTavish and Phillips families. Children—and parents—who appreciated Spottiswoode’s previous stories, and those who are discovering them for the first time, will find much to enjoy here.

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**Illustration by Molly March from *Up In Arms*. She has also designed sets for operas, ballets, and theatre.**

Steve Pocock is a researcher with Hansard Services at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.
A poignant novel about the Japanese internment in Canada and an internee’s life after his release

Kunio Osada had his shadow, always there inside his head, ready, unspoken, to announce itself. It had been there since he left Japan for Canada over forty years ago. He had left his wife and three sons, one of them only two years old, to earn money to maintain the family back home.

Then Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. A worried Canadian government interned Japanese people. After his release his shadow questioned why he did not go back to his family, but there was the last letter from his wife twenty-three years ago asking him to stay in Canada as there was no employment in war-torn Japan. Now, approaching retirement, the time had come to return to the wife and family that he had not seen for so long.

Little did he know what awaited him and how he in turn would become a shadow.
IN HALLWAYS & ON TWITTER

“I’ve seen more money spent on new basketball uniforms than on workshops and classes that could address the increasingly harsh reality of bullying,” says Holly Dobbie, “that is literally killing our youth.”

Aggie’s mother is oblivious to her needs. Paranoid alcoholics can be that way. So, in her most secretive despair, Aggie self-harms. There’s kindness from a school janitor and several moms, but, basically, we are shown the extent to which simply showing up at high school can be a hellish experience, prior to the big Winter Solstice Carnival dance, to which Aggie has received an invitation from an anonymous admirer, a classmate commits suicide. If Fifteen Point Nine sounds bleak, well, that’s the whole point.

Never mind getting a B in math. Or maybe a C+. In Fifteen Point Nine we’re just hoping that Aggie can make it to age 16.

Holly Dobbie is bruising a wake-up call. She believes changes are needed at almost every level of the middle and high school environments to more adequately recognize the proliferation of bullying.

Having taught in Port Moody and Langley high schools, Dobbie has also worked with the Red Cross Child Abuse Prevention Program and with at-risk youth as a school mentor with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. She currently volunteers at the Langley Youth Hub, making dinners for homeless and vulnerable youth.

When I was twelve years old,” says Holly Dobbie, “my father died of pancreatic cancer, and soon after, my mother sold our house and many of our personal belongings, and uprooted us from everything that was familiar and safe. Upon entering a new school in a lovely Dunbar neighbourhood, in a new city in grade eight, a girl my age decided that she hated me as soon as I walked in the door. She continually and aggressively threatened me with verbal taunts and imminent violence, until she finally beat me up, ripping my hair and leaving me bruised and fully shattered.

“In a no-alternative-route school hallway that we had to use to get to class, we frequently encountered a terrifying older boy who made a point of forcefully kicking us every time we passed by his locker. Afraid of further and even more intense violent episodes, I never told anyone of authority about these incidents. Now, so many years later, I know that disclosure, accountability, and solidarity are the key elements to stopping any abuse. The power of the bully is only as real as it is tolerated, only as strong as it is hidden, and will only continue if we all remain silent. My hope is that this book might inspire young adults to embrace the belief that they are capable and worthy, and they deserve to live free of fear, shame, and any form of systemic persecution.

“Fifteen Point Nine is about hope and frailty, courage and despair,” HOLLY DOBBIE on bullying

but also the kids who are comfortable in their intolerance. The mental health services for our young adults are inadequate and unprioritized. I’ve seen more money spent on new basketball uniforms than on workshops and classes that could address the increasingly harsh reality of bullying that is literally killing our youth. My heart breaks for the kids who have taken their lives because they believe they have no other choice. I want this to change, and I have no doubt that given the right guidance and support, middle and high school kids will learn of their options and choose to stay alive, and the schools are the best place to complement and further the outreach programs.

“This stuff keeps me up at night, and writing about it just now, makes me really sad.”

HOLLY DOBBIE on bullying

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HOLLY DOBBIE on bullying
Dave Perrin  
(1948-2018)  

DAVE PERRIN DIED ON AUGUST 5TH, 2018, in Calgary, Alberta at the Foothills Medical Center at age 70. He had a manuscript soon to be published entitled Better Late Than Never.

According to his distributor, Nancy Wise of Sandhill Book Marketing, Dave Perrin’s first book, Don’t Turn Your Back in The Barn: Adventures of a Country Vet (Dave’s Press 2000), sold 23,000 copies through bookstores. “It’s likely he sold another 5–6,000 on his own,” she says, “direct to the public over the years. He used to go to horse shows, dog shows and other trade shows and sit at a table selling his books.”

A Vancouver Sun review once dubbed him, “a modern-day James Herriot, B.C. style.”

Raised in Casino, a small community near Trail, B.C., David Perrin started his veterinary practice in Creston in 1973 and remained there until 1998, after which he began writing and self-publishing the first of six humorous and heartwarming books about his career.

In 1982, Perrin married a woman who, as a teenager, had broken away from the Mormon community in Lister. His book about the polygamous Mormon Fundamentalist community at Bountiful, B.C., Keep Sweet: Children of Polygamy (Dave’s Press, 2004) was written much later in collaboration with Debbie Palmer, who had similarly fled the sect. Herself the oldest of 47 children, Palmer was forced to become the sixth wife of the community’s leader when she was 15. Assigned to two other older men after that, she escaped in 1968 and was later profiled on CBC’s Fifth Estate. The co-authored work earned the VanCity Book Prize in 2005. Perrin had provided veterinary services to the Mormons over the years so he had some knowledge of the subject prior to helping Palmer write her memoir.

Eldon Lee  
(1923-2018)  

THE ENDURANCE OF B.C.’S PIONEER doctors was only surpassed by that of their wives according to Eldon Lee, when he wrote Scalpels & Buggywhips, Medical Pioneers of Central B.C. (Heritage, 1997). Beginning with early Indian shamans and ending in the 1920s, Lee traced the history of an area bounded by Clinton, Prince George, Hazelton and Anaheim Lake.

Lee wrote four other books and was Central B.C.’s first obstetrician.

Born in Chico, California on May 5, 1923, Eldon Lee was raised with his younger brother Todd on a Cariboo ranch. They first arrived in Canada in June of 1929.

After serving as an RCAF bomber pilot, he graduated from the University of Washington Medical School in 1952, interning at the Vancouver General and Shannenhsay Hospitals.

With his wife Marjorie and the first of their six children, he moved to Hazelton and became a rural doctor. He later specialized in obstetrics at Vancouver General, worked for a year in England before he became the only obstetrician and gynaecologist north of the 51st parallel in B.C.

He was a resident of Prince George for three decades.

In retirement he studied Latin and Greek, and piloted ultralight planes. With his brother Todd he co-wrote Tall in the Saddle: Ranch Life in the Cariboo (Heritage House, 1995). His other books were From California to North 52: Cariboo Experiences (Caitlin, 1994), The Hutchwell Papers (Self-published, 1995) and A Western Doctor’s Odyssey, From Cariboo to Kos (Heritage, 1996).

He died on September 3, 2018.

For more information on Dave Perrin and Eldon Lee, visit achobookworld.com
More than twenty-five years after the poetry-writing Phyllis Webb ceased,” he writes, “the wordless poet Phyllis Webb carries on, seems—permanently indefi-
nite.” We learn more about Collis than about Webb. But the tribute is made. Respect one’s elders. He has already
written, Phyllis Webb and the Common Good (Talonbooks, 2007) to examine Webb’s work in relation to 20th century poetics and political
movements. On the day of her 75th birthday, Phyllis Webb takes a life-altering loss in the 1988 Olympics at Seoul to shed his ‘in-it-
to-win-it’ attitude and no longer view
every competitor as an enemy.

Olympic rower Jason Dorland’s second book, Pulling Together: A Coach’s Journey to Uncover the Mindset of True Potential (Heritage $19.95), describes his evolution from an ultra-
competitive athlete to a supportive rowing coach at Shawnigan Lake. It
took a life-altering loss in the 1988
Olympics at Seoul to shed his ‘in-it-
to-win-it’ attitude and no longer view
every competitor as an enemy.

Macy, in turn, learns how Iris sends
messages through the gift of cookies.
Their friendship helps Macy to navigate
friendships, family changes and school
assignments. Shari Green’s latest title
Macy: 978-1-77278-017-8
Missing Mike 978-1-77278-045-1

Shari Green’s novel introduces the
reader to deaf, sixth-grader Macy’s
world. An elderly neighbour, Iris, learns how to communicate with
Macy through sign language, and
Macy, in turn, learns how Iris sends
messages through the gift of cookies.
Their friendship helps Macy to navigate
friendships, family changes and school
assignments. Shari Green’s latest title
is Missing Mike (Pajama Press $18.95)
about the devastation of wildfires and
the resilience of the human spirit.
Green works as a practical nurse.
WHO’S WHO
BRITISH COLUMBIA

H is for Hicks
FAITH ERIN HICKS of Vancouver worked in the animation industry for several years before turning to writing and drawing comics full-time in 2008. Her latest is a juvenile fiction fantasy, The Nameless City: The Divided Earth (Raincoast $28.99). A rogue prince, Erzi, is under siege by the combined forces of Dao and Yisun. The lead characters Rat and Kai must infiltrate the palace and retrieve the ancient and deadly formula for naptha, an ancient weapon for mass destruction, before Erzi decides to use it. 9781626721616

I is for Indigiqueer
PORT JOSHUA WHITEHEAD is a debut novel, Jonny Appleseed (Arsenal $17.95), joins David Chariandy’s Soucouyant in the B.C. publishing house to make it onto the Giller Prize longlist. The book has also been nominated for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction. Jonny Appleseed is the tale of a Two-Spirit Indigiqueer cyberspace worker who fetishizes himself in order to make a living in the big city. Jonny has one week before he must return to the “rez”—and his former life—to attend the funeral of his stepfather. Now Arsenal has partnered with U.S. Book Club (organized by Vivek Shraya in 2017) for an imprint to boost young writers who are Indigenous, Black or people of colour. 9781551527253

J is for Jago
FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, RETURNING VETERAN Al Neill pioneered the formation of not-for-profit jazz clubs in several Canadian cities, most notably the Cellar on Waton Street (near Main), in Vancouver and two lesser-known venues, the Black Spot and the Flat Five. Their jazz heavyweights mingled with up-and-comers in the 1950s and 1960s, giving rise to a pan-Canadian jazz culture as outlined in Marian Jago’s Live at the Cellar: Vancouver’s Iconic Jazz Club and the Canadian Co-operative Jazz Scene in the 1950s and 60s (UBC $29.95). 9780774837699

K is for Katz
ONE IN TWELVE PEOPLE HAVE A RARE DISEASE. A rare disease is defined as a condition affecting fewer than one in 2,000 people. There are more than 7,000 known rare diseases. The most common symptoms of rare diseases, “the underdogs of health care,” Deborah Katz has produced Rare is Everywhere (Miss Bird/Sandhill $19.95) to educate children about nature and make them feel better if they have a rare disease or any anomaly that makes them feel different. “So if you ever feel different, like a white spirit bear, don’t you have to worry because, rare is EVERYWHERE!” Lobsters can be blue. Alligators and tigers can be white. Katz has won a $10,000 Vine Award for Canadian Jewish Literature in the Children’s/Young Adult category for Rare is Everywhere. 978-4-935821-0-4

L is for Lerner
JOIN SCHOOLCHILDREN WILL NOT BE TAUGHT how to write beyond their signature. As we increasingly render control of our lives to machines, the world of graphic art made by human hands becomes more precious and engaging. Emily Carr art history prof Jillian Lerner has therefore explored the culture of graphic art that blossomed in 19th century Paris in her Graphic Culture: Illustration and Artistic Enterprise in Paris, 1830-1848 (McGill-Queen’s $49.95). Whether it’s a portrait of Victor Hugo, a political cartoon or an advertising poster, the richness of talent is undeniable and alluring. 978-0-7735-5455-9

N is for Nelson
BERRY From Nelson’s follow-up to Beyond Barzex in 2016, social critic Joyce Nelson not only exposes the failacies of the neoliberal economy, she highlights the inspirational efforts of those who are rallying against it—such as the ongoing Citizens’ Revolution enacted in 2007 by Ecuadorian president Lenín Moreno. In Bypassing Dystopia: Hope-Filled Challenges to Corporate Rule (Wa tershed Sentinel $20), she cites analyst Noam Chomsky who declares how NAFTA has already erased sovereignty issues around water exports. “With respect to trans-boundary movement of water, there are no real decisions to be made,” says Holm. “The ship has already sailed.” In essence, if Canada tried to stop bulk water export, it would be subject to an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) lawsuit. Both Holm and Maude Barlow are urging that water “as a good, service or investment” be removed from both NAFTA and the FTA. 978-4-953236-3-1

O is for Onjana
“AS HER SPOUSE TRANSITIONED from perceived masculinity towards a new identity, poet Onjana Yawngwe bravely records her own sense of wonder and loss in The Small Way (Caithn $18), a remarkably compassionate view of a heart-twisting, dwindling friendship, sated with respect.” Born in Thailand, Yawngwe is a Shan-Canadian who grew up in B.C. and works as a nurse. 978-1-99715-77-3

P is for Propp
BOLIVIA WAS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES willing to accept Jewish immigrants during World War II. Dan Propp was born in Sucre, Bolivia in 1944 after his parents Arthur and Elsa Propp fled the Nazis. His mother had fled Germany by ship to Brazil. His father had been imprisoned by the Nazis after Kristallnacht. Before the war ended he managed to escape from Berlin by air with the assistance of a woman from the British underground. The Propp family came to B.C. in 1950, settling in Gibson’s Landing where Arthur Propp, in his 60s, started the Sucre Lumber Co. After his father died, Dan Propp wrote to Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel about his parents’ experiences. Wiesel provided notes of encouragement as Propp went on to self-publish four books. Propp has since arranged for the publication of his father’s memoirs, written in German, now translated into English as Where the Straight Path Leads (Amazon, 2017). 9781927626719

The Trio (1954) by Harry Webb hung over the bar at the Cellar, from Live at the Cellar by Marian Jago.
Q is for Quisling
A PRECARIOUS WORKING IN MEXICO UNDER
the thumb of a local drug cartel, falls for a woman whose husband is
discovered by the cartel to be a traitor in Dr. Lawrence E. Matrick’s first novel, The Quisling (Bellevue $18.95). It’s not clear which character is the quis-
lIng: the doctor or the husband but after the latter disappears, the doctor pursues the husband’s wife, all the while wondering if it’s worth risking his medical career for such a dangerous love. Billed as a medical thriller, the story is full of violence, dysfunctional personalities, and sex. Matrick was an assistant professor of psychiatry at UBC and had a full-time private practice in Vancouver for almost 50 years before retiring and becoming a writer. He is working on a new novel set to be released in 2019. 978-1-4875-2318-3

T is for Tippett
PENDER ISLANDER
Maria Tippett
raised hackles for writing truthfully about Bill Reid’s private life but she also included him in her Made in Brit-
ish Columbia: Eight Ways of Making Cul-
ture (Harbour, 2015) which also pro-
filed Emily Carr, Francis Rattenbury, Arthur Erickson, Martin Allerdale Grainger, Jean Coutthard, George Woodcock and George Ryga. Now she has boldly cast a far wider net for Sculpture in Canada: A History (D&M $39.95), an unprecedented survey of an art form for which Canadians are not generally renowned. 978-1-55017-729-9

R is for Reid
AT 24, RAPHAEL REID BECAME THE YOUNGEST
winner of the Governor General’s Award for English-language children’s literature with his debut YA novel, When Everything Feels Like the Movies. Optioned for a movie, published in the high heels to school in California. Everything Feels Like the Movies

S is for Sono Nis
AFTER ITS DISASTROUS WAREHOUSE FIRE OF
August, 2016, which destroyed almost its entire stock, Sono Nis Press of Winlaw has arisen Phoenix-like from the ashes. Two of the first books to be reprinted are Terry Reksten’s classic, Rattenbury, first published in 1978, and Ormsby Review editor Richard Mackie’s Island Timber: A Social His-
tory of the Comox Logging Company, first published in 2000. This is the 6th printing of Mackie’s book, which won the Lieutenant-Governor’s Prize from the BC Historical Federation and was shortlisted for the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize. Publisher Diane Morriss reports that book stores, espe-
cially on Vancouver Island, asked often about these two popular titles.

U is for Unity
IN 2016, SHELLY HGERTICHUCK
introduced the fictional, polygamous community of Unity with her YA novel, Sister Wife, nominated for a Governor General’s Award. Its Bountiful-like leader called the Proph-
et has 26 wives and 60 children. Fifteen-year-old Celeste instinctually ques-
tions the strict doctrines and befriends a mutually skeptical boy, Jon. Caught kissing, he runs away be-

V is for Vahabzadeh
INSTEAD OF VIEWING THE CONCEPTS OF
violence and non-violence as mutually exclusive, in Violence and Nonvio-
lence: Conceptual Excursions into Phantom Opposites (UTP $37.95), UVic’s Peyman Vahabzadeh proposes understanding the relationship between them as concentric. Born and raised in Iran, Vahabzadeh immigrated to Canada in 1989 and earned his Ph.D in sociology from SFU. He is a regular commentator on Iranian affairs in Canadian media.
W is for Wooldridge
IN SEPTEMBER, ANDREW WOOLDRIDGE accepted the Jim Douglas Award from the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia on behalf of his company, Orca Books, at a dinner in Victoria at the Union Club. The award amounts to recognition for “publisher of the year” in British Columbia, restricted to members of the main publishers’ association. Wooldridge’s speech is posted on the BCBookLook.com news hub.

X is for Xiaoming
ONCE AGAIN PROLIFIC AND UNDER-RECOGNIZED Vancouver Island author John Wilson has delved deeply into history as he approaches fifty titles. This time a screenplay by Xiaoming Yao has been the basis for Wilson’s novel, The Third Act (Orca $14.95), for ages twelve and up. Three contemporary Chinese students studying in North America become involved in the presentation of an unfinished play about the Nanjing Massacre of 1937. 9781459819672

Y is for Yukon
YUKON-BASED LILY GONTARD has won the Innovation, Education, and Community Engagement Award at the 34th annual Yukon Heritage Awards for her book about the evolution of Alaska Highway culture, Beyond Mile Zero (Harbour $24.95), with photos by Mark Kelly. With the opening of the Alaska Highway in 1948, at the beginning of the golden age of the automobile, quaint and quirky establishments sprang up along the highway to serve the travelling public. Now, aside from truckers, most people travel the Alaska highway in fuel-efficient cars and self-sufficient RVs, which means the demand for lodge services has diminished and the businesses are struggling to survive. 978-1-55017-797-8

Z is for Zehr
A NEUROSCIENTIST AND MARTIAL artist, E. Paul Zehr has published Chasing Captain America: How Advances in Science, Engineering, and Biotechnology Will Produce a Superhuman (ECW $19.95). Zehr is director of the Centre for Biomedical Research at the University of Victoria. He has done extensive work on the neural control of human locomotion—particularly how the arms and legs interact during walking.

Zehr’s previous books include Becoming Batman: The Possibility of a Superhero (2008), Inventing Iron Man: The Possibility of a Human Machine (2011), and Project Superhero (2014) which have used superheroes as metaphors to explore the science of human potential. He has also written for Scientific American. 978-1-77041-199-9

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With significant help from Michael Audain and Yosef Wosk, BC BookWorld readers have successfully come together and supported our two-year fundraising initiative to purchase a new Toyota pick-up truck to help a small village in western Tanzania called Luhombero.

Yes, Luhombero is hard to say—and easy to forget—so my colleague Sharon Jackson and I have built an informational website at helpluhombero.org. We can’t show you a photo of the truck yet, but it’ll take another three months for the vehicle to be delivered to the African coast at Dar es Salaam, from Europe, by freighter. But I do want to say thank you to everyone who saw fit to contribute to this initiative. We’ve printed a lot of your names already; now there are too many to include here.

A reliable vehicle will obviously prove to be a tremendous asset for the various agricultural and construction projects that Father Placid Kindata has already generated in this remote community. With his irrigation systems, he’s now growing food for everyone year-round. I was there in July and checked. The spanking new four-door pick-up will also be a great benefit to the village and surrounding area because too frequently a reliable vehicle is required for emergencies. The roads are dreadful, almost impassable due to heavy rains and flooding at times, and it’s about a 16-hour drive from Luhombero to one of the country’s few major hospitals on the coast.

Your generosity is going to help Father Placid save a few lives. It was a bit of a no-brainer to ask you all to mobilize as a community and do something useful with our collective strength. Thank you for verifying my belief in you.


—Alan Twigg, BC BookWorld
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