HOW OUR KIDS CAN AVOID INTERNET PERIL  p.8
BY BEVERLY CRAMP
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Registration Now Open
Salt Spring Island

Growing up on the Toronto Islands, Jana Roerick baked pies, cookies, squares and muffins every Friday with her mother that they peddled the following afternoon on Ward Island from a bike and cart. They always sold out. Roerick became a pastry chef and eventually moved to Salt Spring Island after ten years at her first husband’s homeland of Tobago. She soon opened Jana’s Bake Shop and developed a loyal following. Now remarried, Roerick has published The Little Island Bake Shop: Heirloom Recipes Made for Sharing (Figure 1 $34.99) highlighting her mother’s recipes and local ingredients like berries, pumpkins, vegetables, herbs, heritage variety apples and—believe it or not—bananas. “The Caribbean still flavours my baking to this day,” she says, “you’ll taste it in my lamb patties and my famous, rum-soaked fruitcake.” 978177327-063-0

Ashcroft

Ashcroft-based translator and former Radio-Canada contributor Annie Bourret is the debut author for a new French language publishing house in B.C., Les Éditions de l’Épaulard. Dedicated to serious topics, it’s the brainchild of UBC’s André Lamontagne, and Uvic’s Réal Roy. Bourret’s Pour l’humour du français ($27.95) is a series of 80 short, lively essays that were first published as syndicated columns in Franco-Canadian newspapers or aired by Radio-Canada. In a resolutely humoristic fashion, Bourret highlights the richness and diversity of French spoken here and elsewhere. Readers will discover the origins of numerous words and phrases, unusual detours of grammar, the hate-love relationship of English and Canadian French and the pitfalls of French in a minority setting. 978-2-924957-00-4

From Toronto Islands to Gulf Islands: Jana Roerick

Nanaimo

Early Nanaimo, we learn from Jean Barman’s Iroquois in the West (McGill-Queen’s $29.95), was largely built by Iroquois. With ancestral roots in Eastern Canada and the United States, Iroquois peoples began moving in significant numbers to the West two centuries ago. Barman follows four groups including a band settling in Montana, and others opting for B.C. and the Pacific Northwest. Her sources were descendants’ recollections, fur-trade and government records and other travellers’ accounts. One of the stories describes a young Iroquois who leaves his home village of Caughnawaga in the late 1840s and arrives in Nanaimo in 1852 just as it is being constructed to house emigrating English coal miners. 978-0-7735-5625-6

Oliver

Raised mainly in Oliver in the Okanagan, where his father was a high school teacher, George Bowering was a smart aleck who yearned for notoriety from the get-go. “At five,” writes biographer Rebecca Wigod in He Speaks Volumes (Talonbooks $24.95), “George fleetingly wondered if he could be the second coming of Christ he’d heard about.” As the loudest and most prolific of the TISH poetry clan from UBC, Bowering has put an appearance into the mix with his first child after BoSox slugger Ted Williams is the new poster boy for a VGH Foundation fundraising campaign. A lifelong baseball fan and player, Bowering likes to say he’s now into extra innings. Assiduously even-handed, to the point of being dispassionate about Bowering’s writing, former Vancou-ver Sun book page editor Rebecca Wigod spent several years combing through an enormous paper trail that Mr. Prolific has laid, having planned to be famous throughout his life. It is evident from this welcome, thorough and astute biography that Wigod has been more intrigued by Bowering’s difficult personality than by his prodigious output. Or, as the biography deftly puts it: “Something about his manner of self-presentation piqued her interest.”

This inspirational poster of George Bowering (at the UBC Hospital) helps to raise research funds for treatment of heart and lung ailments. 978-1-77201-206-4

This inspirational poster of George Bowering (at the UBC Hospital) helps to raise research funds for treatment of heart and lung ailments.

With a new partner, Jean Baird—who he married in 2006 at the Sylvia Point Grey library in Vancouver. Given CPR for cardiac arrest, he remained in a coma, at death’s door, for more than a week. “He recovered more quickly and better than is expected of seventy-nine-year-olds,” writes Baird. Now the man who once hoped to name his first child after BoSox slugger Ted Williams is the new poster boy for a VGH Foundation fundraising campaign. A lifelong baseball fan and player, Bowering likes to say he’s now into extra innings. Assiduously even-handed, to the point of being dispassionate about Bowering’s writing, former Vancouver Sun book page editor Rebecca Wigod spent several years combing through an enormous paper trail that Mr. Prolific has laid, having planned to be famous throughout his life. It is evident from this welcome, thorough and astute biography that Wigod has been more intrigued by Bowering’s difficult personality than by his prodigious output. Or, as the biography deftly puts it: “Something about his manner of self-presentation piqued her interest.”

978-1-77220-026-4

A R O U N D B C
Saanich

Tilar J. Mazeeo’s Irena’s Children: A True Story of Courage has won the 2018 Western Canada Jewish Book Award.

At the 34th annual Jewish Book Festival in Vancouver, Mazeeo spoke about her real-life heroine, Irena Sendler, who smuggled thousands of children out of the Warsaw Ghetto and convinced friends and neighbours to help them.

Mazeeo is currently newsworthy for her biography of the devoted wife of Alexander Hamilton, as depicted in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Broadway musical Hamilton.

Eliza Hamilton: The Extraordinary Life and Times of the Wife of Alexander Hamilton (Simon & Shuster $836) tells her subject’s complete life story. In his last letter to her, Alexander described her as the “best of wives, best of women.”

One of the leading cultural historians in the U.S., Tilar J. Mazeeo, has recently settled in Saanich with her husband, Robert Miles, a Canadian professor of English.

There is also the proprietor and winemaker at Parsell Vineyard, on Lamont Road, where her estate-grown wines are naturally grown, with no chemical fertilizers or sulfite-free upon request.


Whether she’s writing about Irena Sendler—the female Schindler—or a high society entrepreneur, Mazeeo is intent upon revealing the secret lives of amazing women often obscured by history.

“That’s the story about Eliza Hamilton,” she says, “who is known only as the wife of a famous man but who, behind the scenes, kept powerful women often obscured by history. According to Mazeeo, she describes herself as “six years sober and clean on her journey, passionate about healing, a mother to one, a mediocre beader and a skilled berry picker.”

She is one of five participants selected for the 2019 RBC Taylor Prize Emerging Writers Mentorship Program, along with UVic MFA student Miles Steyn.

Fort St. John

Helen Knott of Fort St. John is of Dane Zaa, Nehiyaw and mixed Euro descent from Prophet River First Nation. In 2016, she was one of sixteen women featured globally by the Nobel Women’s Initiative for her commitment to activism ending gender-based violence. In 2017, she received a REVEAL Indigenous Art Award. She has a Bachelor of Social Work Degree while also pursuing a Masters in First Nations Studies at UNBC, where she will release her first book, In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Struggle and Resilience (University of Regina Press, $24.95). Meanwhile she’s writing an indigenous female manifesto, Taking Back the Bones, described as personal narrative “interwoven with humour, academic research and critical reflection.” She has published short stories and poetry in the Malahat Review, Red Rising Magazine and the Surviving Canada Anthology. On her blog, Warrior, she describes herself as “six years sober and clean on her journey, passionate about healing, a mother to one, a mediocre beader and a skilled berry picker.”

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Shelley Adams

White Water Cooks: More Beautiful Food (Sandhill $14.95)

Daniel Marshall

Claiming the Land: British Columbia and the Making of a New El Dorado (Ronsdale Press $24.95)

Lou Allison & Jane Wilde (editors)

Dancing in Gumboots: Adventure, Love & Resilience, Women of the Comox Valley (Caitin $24.95)

Elee Kraljii Gardiner

* The current top-selling titles from British Columbia and the Territories, in no particular order.

BC TOP SELLERS

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AROUND BC


In a CBC Short Doc called Peace River Rising, Helen Knott (below) explores the dangers of industrial expansions, bringing to light the fact that Fort St. John, now primarily an oil and gas town, has a per capita crime rate that is nearly double that of Vancouver.

Eliza Hamilton: 978-1501166303

Helen Knott: 978-1510166303

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• New publisher Richard Mackie

More books, more reviews, more often.
The Sinixt of the West Kootenays were declared EXTINCT by the Canadian government in 1956

Now Sinixt members share their personal histories for future generations.

**BY PAULA PRICE**

Years ago, on a December afternoon, I pondered a collection of tips on a frosty riverside. I knew from childhood that this quiet, rugged corner of British Columbia known as the Slocan Valley had attracted artists, Quakers, Doukhobors, and back-to-the-landers. But in those last few days of 1989, when I had returned home from university over the winter break, I was surprised to find First Nations people were protesting the exhumation of ancestral remains during roadbuilding on the Slocan River at Vallican.

I learned these were SinixtInteriorSalish (or Lakes) people who had been largely displaced from the West Kootenay region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries due to intensive silver mining and disease.

In its ignorance, the Canadian government declared this people extinct in 1956. No cohesive account had ever been published about the Sinixt people. During the next decade I studied archaeological and archival records to piece together the history of the Sinixt diaspora. My book, *Keeping the Lakes’ Way: Reburial and the Re-creation of a Moral World among an Invisible People* (UTP, 1999), was an effort to solve the riddle of this people’s invisibility to settler communities, and to explore the forces that prompted them to keep returning even when Canadian immigration laws attempted to dissuade them.

Because of colonial pressures and laws of reserve land sanctuaries in Canada, many Sinixt people had moved to the southern reaches of their territory on the Washington State Reservation of the Colville Confederated Tribes, or onto surrounding Canadian regions.

But Sinixt people have continually returned to their ancestral territory, eighty percent of which lies in what is now Canada, to hunt, gather, visit family and friends, and attend to sacred sites.

Written and compiled by a Sinixt mother-and-daughter team, Marilyn James and Taress Alexis, *Not Extinct: Keeping the Sinixt Way now throws off the invisibility cloak.*

The authors have followed in the footsteps of the late Elders Eva Orr and Alvina Lam to work as matrilineal representatives attempting to restore knowledge of their people’s presence in their ancestral territory.

They have also sought to repatriate and rebury exhumed ancestral remains, and to act as environmental stewards of the land.

Combining classic Interior Salish oratory and a playful multimedia approach, the book offers stories to teach others about Sinixt laws, culture, language, history, and responsibility to the land.

Today, believing that the well-being of their people and their land now depends on being seen and heard, Marilyn James and Taress Alexis have worked with a group of settlers called the Blood of Life Collective to re-introduce their people to non-Sinixt through story.

Editor K.L. Kivi describes how the collective project was first inspired by fireside conversations and storytelling with Marilyn James.

The book retains this oral, conversational tone by alternating Sinixt and non-Sinixt voices. Sinixt voices are primary, including online audio recordings and written explanations of classic tales and family histories.

Non-Sinixt people contribute through visuals writing and written reflections on what they have heard and understood from those stories, their varied perspectives giving a feeling for the diversity of settler cultures.

In the book’s introduction remarks, biographical sketches of the collaborators, and glossaries of Sinixt words and phrases, and important English terms.

STORIES ARE THE HEART OF THE BOOK. Online audio versions are augmented with book chapters that fill out associations.

"Coyote and Chickadee," for instance, is a complex tale of how Trickster Coyote tried to steal Chickadee’s powerful bow. It serves as a springboard to discuss consciousness and the importance of feeling at ease with the variety of personal power (sumíx) one bears, whether it seems impressive or not.

excerpt from page 7 of the book is a digital audio file.

The book retains this oral tradition of tipis, storytelling and sleeping under the stars as its medium.

The authors have followed a path of reconciliation that was inspired by fireside conversations with Marilyn James, Taress Alexis, and Elders Eva Orr and Alvina Lam of the Colville Confederated Tribes.

The Sinixt of the West Kootenays are declared Extinct by the Canadian government in 1956. But Sinixt people have continually returned to their ancestral territory, eighty percent of which lies in what is now Canada, to hunt, gather, visit family and friends, and attend to sacred sites.

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The Sinixt of the West Kootenays were declared EXTINCT by the Canadian government in 1956. Now Sinixt members share their personal histories for future generations.
The head-on collision of children and pornography is increasingly common. "We need to help children become good digital citizens," says Dr. Jillian Roberts.

"Only posting what will make someone else smile and therefore not posting anything negative."

"Never 'liking' or sharing material negative or embarrassing for someone else."

"While On the Internet, with illustrations by Jane Heinrichs, is aimed at children between the ages of 6 and 8, Dr. Roberts has also published an accompanying manual for adults, Kids, Sex and Screens: Raising strong, resilient children in the sexualized digital age (Fair Winds Press, $25.99) to be used in conjunction with the children's book.

"The second title in the series, On Our Street: Our First Talk About Diversity (Orca, 2018), introduces young children to the realities of people living without sufficient resources and includes the homeless, the mentally ill, those living as refugees, and other aspects of the difficulties of poverty."

Meanwhile the perils of pornography for impressionable minds will persist. "I believe it is impossible to prevent children seeing inappropriate things online," Dr. Roberts says, adding that despite what parents think are strong software controls to prevent this, they aren't enough.

"Free WIFI is available everywhere. It is super common for kids to access pornographic sites and share the material with other kids. Parents need to have the talk much earlier if they don't want to lose the chance to help their children with their sexuality. Instead, children will get their first experience with pornographic sites."
BY CHAD REIMER

S ome 130 years ago, the province’s foremost museum in Victoria was given a dual mandate. First, it was “to secure and preserve specimens relating to the natural history of the Province...and to obtain information...increase and diffuse knowledge regarding the same.”

Second, it was “to collect anthropological material relating to the aboriginal races of the Province.” Patricia Roy sets out to write the history of both those initiatives in The Collectors: A History of the Royal British Columbia Museum and Archives.

Her clear and carefully-researched narrative follows three main streams—natural history, Indigenous peoples and archives—from the founding of the Provincial Museum (1886) and Provincial Archives (1908) to the 2003 merger of the two into the Royal British Columbia Museum and Archives.

Natural history received the most attention and funding from the outset, in step with the subsequent branding of the province on license plates as “supernatural British Columbia.”

The second stream was a harder sell. Well into the 20th century, the museum was stuck in its original salvage mode, collecting “curious,” artifacts, and even human remains of what were widely seen and vanishing Indians.

The work of anthropologist Wilson Duff and Kwakwaka’wakw totem-pole carver Mungo Martin for the museum were among the first to treat Indigenous cultures as living, breathing entities.

The third stream—the Provincial Archives—suffered through budget cuts and indifferent archivists until, through budget cuts and indifferent archivists until, through the breakthroughs of the late Victorian era, which remains as Roy’s account pulls its punches when a sharper critique might be appropriate.

During much of the institution’s history, Indigenous peoples were seen as a dying, or at least diminishing, race, and their cultures treated as static and pre-modern.

It is not enough to say, as Roy does, that museum personnel were simply expressing the attitudes of the times, nor to categorize their approach as “paternalistic.”

We need to know how, over its long history, the museum’s efforts contributed to the wider view that the immigrant peoples who took over the province were somehow superior to the Indigenous peoples they dispossessed.

This viewpoint was not so much paternalistic as colonialist.

In the later chapters of The Collectors, Roy does an admirable job of describing how the museum’s stance towards Indigenous peoples evolved from its early days as collector, through the breakthroughs of Duff and Martin, to the most recent efforts that build on the active participation and initiative of Indigenous peoples.

Roy’s discussion helps us navigate current issues—such as the repatriation of artifacts to their rightful owners—and consider the way forward.

The joining of natural history and Indigenous peoples in one public body was a product of the late Victorian era, which viewed Indigenous peoples as part of the natural world—static and passive, either the backdrop to the real history of colonial “settlers,” or as specimens to be studied.

Roy paraphrases the criticism of Gloria Franks, a member of the Yurok nation and then a graduate student, who in a 2000 BC Studies article, “That’s My Dinner on Display,” expressed resentment at seeing her people displayed as anthropological specimens.

The way forward may be to create two provincial museums: a B.C. Museum of Natural History on one hand, and a Museum of Human History of British Columbia on the other.

The archives, which lost much of its autonomy when the government merged it with the museum in 2003, could be attached to the latter and regain some of its autonomy.

“The museum is now working on a storyline that will present a single inclusive narrative of the history of Indigenous peoples in B.C. and of later arrivals,” Roy writes.

Meanwhile, Patricia Roy’s overview provides a welcome starting point for re-inventing its subject.
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THE LITTLE ISLAND BAKE SHOP

Jana Roerick

DIVINE THREADS

April Liu

PEOPLE AMONG THE PEOPLE

Robert D. Watt

EPPICH HOUSE II

Greg Bellerby

DIVINE THREADS

April Liu

EPPICH HOUSE II

Greg Bellerby

PEOPLE AMONG THE PEOPLE

Robert D. Watt

THE LITTLE ISLAND BAKE SHOP

Jana Roerick
As a high school teacher in B.C.’s interior, formerly Prince George-based Lily Chow of Victoria travelled in her spare time to identify Chinese Canadian cemeteries, that dotted every small town in B.C. and across the Prairies, also noting Chinese names on headstones in cemeteries. Her explorations eventually resulted in two ground-breaking books about Chinese communities in northern B.C. Sajounins in the North (1994) and Chasing Their Dreams (2001). Now Henry Yu responds to her fifth book, another cumulative study, Blossoms in the Gold Mountains.—Ed.

Blossoms in the Gold Mountains: Chinese Settlements in the Fraser Canyon and the Okanagan & Fraser Valley

Lily Chow continues to gather stories of the Chinese in B.C. outside of the coastal cities.

Canadians after 1947, when re-enfranchisement and the quiet dismantling of white supremacy meant a long-denied ability to enter white collar professions, including medicine, dentistry, accounting, and law.

With full citizenship rights restored—the vote had been taken away from Chinese and non-whites as one of the first acts of the B.C. legislature in 1871 after the colony joined the Dominion of Canada—Chinese Canadians were finally able to aspire to a living beyond the mostly manual labour to which they had been restricted by legislated discrimination.

Chinese labour in laundries and food services in rural and small town Canada was gradually forgotten, as more Chinese families moved closer to universities. We owe a debt of gratitude to Lily Chow for telling us the stories of the Chinese in northern and interior B.C. in her earlier books.

Based mostly upon oral history interviews (supported by written traces of the earlier Chinese presence in newspapers and local records), her Blossoms in the Gold Mountains concentrates on a few families who are inextricably tied to the history of particular towns, such as the On Lee family in Yale and the Chong family of Lytton.

Along the way Chow explains why there has been such inconsistency in the anglicization of Chinese names in B.C. The On Lee family of Yale, for instance, was actually part of the Jang family, but as with many other small town Chinese-Canadian families, they became known by the business name of their store rather than their own family name.

And, of course, there was no shortage of clerical errors. In an earlier work, she once explained how Alexander Won Cunyow and his son Gordon Cunyow acquired their family name in English from a clerk writing down Cunyow’s given name as the family name.

This happened, as well, to C.D. Hoy, the famous stor- eowner and photographer of Queer Creek, whose proper name, Chow Dong Hoy, was rendered in Chinese order, with family name first. By the alchemy of anglicization, the surname Chow became Hoy.

Lily Chow establishes how what seems in English to be a confusion of names—Chow, Joe, Zhou, Chou—is actually the same Chinese family name.

The proliferation of variants was both the product of transliteration and the fact that different dialects of Chinese pronounce the same character differently.

Here’s how tricky it can be: The family name is spelled in the pinyin Romanization system of Mandarin Chinese as Xie, but in the Toisan dialect of the majority of the migrants to B.C. it was generally anglicized as Der or Deer; whereas in Hong Kong it would generally be spelled as Tse; in Singapore as Chia; and in Shanghai as Sia.

But Blossoms in the Gold Mountains is about much more than semantics. It is primarily about families—no matter what others called them. Peter Wais, the first mayor of Chinese heritage elected in Canada (mayor of Kamloops, 1966-1971), was actually of the Eng family, but Chow’s larger purpose is to see him through the lens of his family, through multiple generations.

In this way, the stories of Chinese Canadians in Yale, Lytton, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, and Armstrong are brought to life not as anomalies but in ways that explain why they were often respected citizens and community leaders.

By countering the over-generalizations of others, including scholars who have insisted that the Chinese lived overwhelmingly in Chinatowns across Canada (in fact, in no historical period did the majority of Chinese Canadians live and work in urban Chinatowns), Lily Chow has rescued the lives and work of the Chinese minority in these interior communities.

With Blossoms in the Gold Mountains, Lily Chow provides an inclusive and accurate historical narrative that looks back in time just as we look forward and aspire to be a nation that derives strength and community from necessity and diversity she reveals. 9781937235501

Henry Yu teaches history and is the principal of St. John’s College at UBC. In 2015, Yu was appointed the co-chair for the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council following the province’s apology in 2014 for B.C.’s historic anti-Chinese legislation. He received a BC Multicultural Award in 2015.
Ilan Levine’s history of Jews in Canada, Seeking the Fabled City: The Canadian Jewish Experience (McClelland & Stewart $45), is fascinating stuff, to be sure. Levine quite rightly points out the anti-Semitic complaint that Jews have too much power or influence—yet he delights in pointing out Jews who have made it, who are successful, who, in fact, do have influence.

Can we have it both ways, celebrating influence but criticizing those who say there is too much? I suppose it is the “too much” that is key: how much is too much? And if a people have achieved, why should they be criticized for that?

Also, how is it that the poor Jews of the Depression have become so successful? How did the barriers to their advancement fall? Levine notes that, though the Holocaust shocked Jews and non-Jews alike, discrimination didn’t really fade away until the 1960s. Why is that? Levine credits Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and multiculturalism, which celebrated things like Israeli folk dancing (oh, please, not Israeli folk dancing). Maybe it was just the general Sixties zeitgeist, the civil rights movement in the States, and so on.

Anyway, there are interesting questions that come to mind reading Levine’s book, but they deserve a fuller treatment than he affords them. We could use a book that explores them, and especially explores the varieties of Jewish experience, tracing the trends in Canadian society, and we could especially do with a new book on the Jewish community in Vancouver and Victoria.
New books from
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WOO, THE MONKEY WHO INSPIRED EMILY CARR
A Biography
GRANT HAYTER-MENZIES delivers a lyrical biography of Emily Carr and her beloved and enigmatic pet monkey, Woo.

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How to Harness Microbes Inside and Outside for Lifelong Health
Discover the role of the microbiome in defending against cancer, heart disease, obesity and more in this guide to lifelong health by microbiologist B. BRETT FINLAY and genomics specialist JESSICA M. FINLAY.

CHOP SUEY NATION
The Legion Café and Other Stories from Canada’s Chinese Restaurants
Part family memoir, part social history and part culinary narrative, Chop Suey Nation, by Globe and Mail National Food Reporter ANN HUI, explores the Chinese restaurants of small-town Canada.

BEING CHINESE IN CANADA
The Struggle for Identity, Belonging and Belonging
WILLIAM GING WAI DREW explores systemic discrimination against Chinese Canadians and the effects of the redress movement.

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Short Stories
Master Thiby storyteller RICHARD VAN CAMP captures the shifting and magical nature of the North in this stunning collection of short stories.

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In this complex espionage novel, ALISA SMITH transports the unforgettable characters from spydom to opulent and unstable postwar Siam.

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A New Historical Atlas
Award-winning historian DEBRA HAYES tells the story of the province with over 500 maps and 500 illustrations and photographs.

MAMASKATCH
A Cree Coming of Age
Winner of a Governor General’s Award
A heartbreaking and candid memoir of a Cree boy’s resilience and grace in the face of chaos and inter-generational tragedy by DARRELL J. McLEOD.

RETURN OF THE WOLF
Conflict and Coexistence
As reports of human encounters with wolves become more frequent, PAULA WILD offers a timely examination of this icon of the wilderness.
Another PEACE offering

Editor Wendy Holm and contributor Joyce Nelson claim Site C could really be about exporting B.C. water.

The B.C. public never did grant the Site C Dam a social license (as in “Governments give permits but communities give permission.”)

Environmental activist Briony Penn discusses the cumulative impact of Site C. Environmental assessments evaluate projects in isolation, neglecting connections. “There is a threshold beyond which the system will lose the capacity to recover.” Elder Clara

ence Appassini of Blueberry River First Nation agrees. “Our earth is dying. It is gradually being destroyed.” The late radio personality RaFe Mair argues on behalf of civil disobedience: “As evil like the Site C Dam...that will flood vital food lands...trample the rights of First Nations, destroy habitat ... threaten the Athabasca Delta... is supported by... governments and those who stand to profit from its construction.”

Considering Indigenous resistance, author Andrew MacLeod presents the experience of Helen Knott, of the Prophet River First Nation. Her reserve is 3.8 sq. km., while Dene Zaa territory is 25,000 sq. km. Treaty 8 affirms First Nations have the right to pursue traditional vocations “except where the land may be taken up for settlement or other purposes,” like the flooding of the Peace River Valley. “The italicized clause is clearly problematic and disempowering.”

“I want to get rid of the Indian problem,” proposed Duncan Campbell Scott of the Department of Indian Affairs, in 1910. Warren Bell, a family physician, shows why Site C is “simply the culmination of a sustained process of exploitation.” The health of a population depends on the health of the ecosystem. Bell looks forward to “a time of global healing.” Journalist and photographer Zoë Ducklow, asks in Site C Really Past The Point Of No Return? Local resident Arlene Boon says: “We have until the water rises to stop the dam.”

Two other books on this subject are BREACHING THE PEACE: The Site C Dam and a Valley’s Stand against Big Hydro (UBC Press $24.95), edited by Sarah Coz, and The Peace in Peril (Harbour $24.95) by Christopher Pollon and photojournalist Ben Neims.

John Gellard is a retired Vancouver English teacher. He travels extensively in British Columbia taking a keen interest in environmental issues.

In December of 2017, when the NDP government announced they would proceed with the Liberacontroversial Site C dam, opponents such as agronomist Wendy Holm sensed there was an elephant in the room. Site C, she claims, “is exactly where it needs to be to deliver continental water-sharing plans.” Sixteen contributors to Damming the Peace: The Hidden Costs of the Site C Dam, all argument against the project. It’s the third book to take an adversarial stance. There has yet to be a book in favour of the project.—Ed.

As early as the 1950s, the US Army Corps of Engineers considered diverting water from west of the Rockies to the east side of the continent. The so-called North American Water and Power Alliance was conceived to make it happen. Donald Trump has tweeted, “It is so ridiculous where they are taking the water and shoving it out to sea.”

So how seriously do we have to consider the possibility that Site C is about exporting water in the future? In contributor Joyce Nelson’s view, the Site C reservoir is the last essential link in this process. If Trump gets his way via his revised NAFTA agreement, impounded water will be a commodity to be exported and Site C will be at the centre of a new water-based geopolitics of North America.

In her own book, Beyond Biodiversity: Resisting the New Feudalism, Joyce Nelson also devotes a chapter to the looming issue of bulk water exports. In Damming the Peace, Nelson exposes the “diabolical scheme” that North American water is a “shared resource.”

In editor Wendy Holm’s contribution, she writes that “The rich alluvial soils of the Peace River Valley are part of our foodland commons.” Loss of the commons has never been included in economic evaluations. It’s an “externality.” She claims Site C entails losing the capacity to feed at least a million people a year, in perpetuity.

Alex Harris, a videographer, provides links to videos of interviews she has conducted during her trips to the Peace River Valley and she contributes the preface. David Schindler refutes the myth that hydro dams produce clean green energy, claiming they produce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and they poison fish. B.C. might need 75,000 gigawatt-hours per year by 2030, and the 1,100 megawatt Site C Dam will generate 5,100 GWh per year, but environmentalist and author Guy Dauncey persuasively argues that we don’t need this kind of power. He claims demand can be met by renewables: solar, wind, geothermal, and Demand Side Management.

Biologist Brian Churchill documents why the Peace Valley is a “biodiversity hotspot.” The uniquely benign microclimate brings species from several eco-regions together with species not found outside the Valley. “Governments have forsaken their traditional monitoring [of this] island of nature in a sea of human disturbance.” He claims. Former NDP environment minister Joan Sawicki critiques Hydro’s failure to include the miraculously benign microclimate in its analysis. Journalist Andrew Ralston describes the dangers of fracking: earthquakes, huge consumption of water, and discharge of toxins. In a second chapter, he addresses the effect on the Athabasca Delta of the Peace. The Site C Dam impounds water—Site C would “be ‘history repeating itself as a rotten farce.’”

Playwright journalist Silver Donald Cameron tells of lawyer Antonio Oposa, who used the law to stop destruction of forests in the Philippines. Cameron reveals that “Canada...refuses to recognize the human right to a healthy environment.” Agrologist Reg Whitson, examines “social license.”

Protesters have expressed opposition to the mega-project instigated by Christy Clark’s Liberals in many ways, including this field of yellow stakes near Site C.

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It’s a Big Deal!
DINA DEL BUCCHIA

So many things seem like a BIG DEAL: fashionable clothes, food trends for healthfulness and coolness, personal turmoils, what someone else just said, the ever-charged political landscape, Instagram posts, extinct megafauna, avocado toast ... the list could – and does – go on and on. Quirky, wry, sensitive, bitchy, and honest, It’s a Big Deal! interrogates the ways we interpret and process the big deals of our twenty-first-century lives. Dina Del Bucchia’s poetic voice delivers sharp humour and candid sincerity.

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bill bissett’s innovations have have stimulated, provoked, influenced, shocked, and delighted audiences for half a century. This new collection, which presents both new and selected poems, “shows sew manee threds thru poetree n langwage btween n thru lyrik sound song vizual narrativ non narrativ his her storikal naytur humour sexual romantik politikul metaphysikal spiritual fuseyun.”

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Talonbooks
Derek Hayes stays on track

The intrepid geographer doesn’t disappoint according to historian Walter Volovsek.

by the Great War—was taken over by the government of his successor. Up to that time it consisted of two disconnected segments: a working line between North Vancouver and Whytecliff, and a segment being pushed northward from Squamish. The southern segment was closed in 1928, while the northern segment was advanced gradually until work was stopped 30 km short of Prince George and the rails removed back to Quesnel. That section was rebuilt and tracks connected to Prince George in 1952. The missing segment along Howe Sound was blasted from the precipitous mountainside by 1956, and West Vancouver residents were chagrined to have to revert to the disruption of train traffic again, much of it now industrial.

The government of W.A.C. Bennett supplied the line further north to stop competing railways from Alberta from tapping the vast resources of northeastern B.C. Feeder lines were built in all directions, and an extension pushed into the northwest corner. In 1972 the name was changed to the British Columbia Railway. The transformation was completed when the provincial government sold the line to Canadian National in 2004.

This encyclopedic work includes chapters on all aspects of rail development. The use of the steam locomotive in industries such as mining and logging is well documented in a dedicated chapter. Specialized locomotives were utilized to follow the tighter curves and uneven grades of the more primitive and transient logging railways. Greater torque was supplied to the traction wheels by geared drive shafts, resulting in more pulling power. Three basic designs were employed: of these, the Shay locomotive is probably best known. Underground mining operations had to consider the possibility of explosions and for that reason steam power was out. Traction engines were either electric or run by compressed air contained in a large tank.

Having produced various atlases of historic maps, it is only natural for Derek Hayes to include a well-chosen collection in Iron Road West. I had to rig up a strong magnifying glass to examine the finer details, but the cartography adds another dimension to this comprehensive work. Also, in this category are a couple of sections called “Tracing the Path of an Old Railway,” where Hayes matches information gleaned from old maps of long-vanished rail lines to photographs of the current landscape.

The book ends triumphantly in the section “A Legacy Preserved.” Many excellent colour photographs document the preservation of railway history in B.C., from still functioning heritage trains to exotic static displays of rolling stocks and other artefacts in railway museums. It is obvious that Hayes is not only extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of railroading, but is also an accomplished photographer. Perfect composition, great lighting, and sharp focus are characteristic of his photographs, not all of which were taken under ideal conditions. Their skilful arrangement in the book is a feast for the eye.

Iron Road West: An Illustrated History of British Columbia’s Railways is not only a worthy addition to the reference library of the seasoned railway buff, but it also serves as an intriguing coffee table conversation prop for the amateur historian.

9781550178388
Stones and hard places

Joanna Lilley’s novel of the family nightmare that is responsibility, guilt, and dreams.

First-time novelist Joanna Lilley, with Pepper, emigrated from the U.K. in 2006.

She has not seen for eight years, has had a stroke and is in the hospital in Inverness. She contacts her sisters, neither of whom has any intention of going to see her mother. Jenny, reluctantly books a flight back to Britain. Someone has to do it.

Anyone with siblings can relate to these fractures that occur when someone bears the brunt of family duties.

Jenny will be delayed for longer than she hopes and expects; she will need to put her academic research on hold while she tries to unravel what is going on with her mother.

Mother needs an advocate to protect her from some of the people who are paid to look after her. Obviously, it would help a great deal if her sisters would step up to the plate. Guilt in families easily generates rifts.

Jenny certainly deserves happiness in the end and the reader hopes she finds it.

Despite a few awkward shifts in the storytelling, Worry Stones has a credible plot with believable characters. Making this a promising debut novel after a collection of stories and two books of poetry.

978-1-55380-541-0

BY CHERIE THIESSEN

I just don’t seem to work if parents put their affairs ahead of their children’s. Take Margaret and Alasdair Ross, for example.

Their three daughters are all intelligent and gifted. There’s no question the family has a good genetic pool.

Maddie, the oldest, has become a well-known artist. Sophie is on her way to being a household name as an actress, and Jenny, the youngest, is the academic and intellectual one, working on her doctorate in art history. She’s turned to art and especially carving.

But genes aren’t all there is to it. As parents, Margaret and Alasdair are easily distracted with dreams and plans that fluctuate. They encourage and assist their daughters in their goals, but only until their own dissatisfaction with their lives motivates them to try something different.

The UK family is uprooted several times. Jenny, the responsible one, has learned to read the signs of an upcoming upheaval.

When she’s 13, her parents move from Brighton to Peebles in Scotland in order to run a B&B. She loves the new home in Peebles, but the effort doesn’t work.

When Jenny is 16, her parents decide to move to a commune. They sell up the home Jenny has come to love in Peebles and move to a remote one in the Scottish Highlands. The community is a religious sect called Gallachism. Jenny, adrift, refuses to set foot in the commune and continues her studies, having lost her entire family and her beloved home. Maddie and Sophie have had their own issues to deal with. It’s an uphill climb when a family fractures and parents just don’t seem to care.

All of which is the backdrop for a story that opens in 2000 when Jenny is 25. She’s in Nunavut, interviewing Inuit artists and researching their art for her doctorate in art history. The remote, bucolic and focused young woman loves her home Jenny has come to love and is drawn to the stark Arctic landscape. She makes friends and is about to engage in a serious relationship with what will be her first boyfriend since a traumatic experience she had in her second year of university.

In Nunavut she gets the news that her mother, whom she has not seen for eight years, has had a stroke and is in the hospital in Inverness. She contacts her sisters, neither of whom has any intention of going to see their mother. Jenny, reluctantly books a flight back to Britain. Someone has to do it.

Anyone with siblings can relate to these fractures that occur when someone bears the brunt of family duties.

Jenny will be delayed for longer than she hopes and expects; she will need to put her academic research on hold while she tries to unravel what is going on with her mother.
Karen Lee White

Karen Lee White is a Northern Salish, Tuscara, Chipewa, and Scots writer from Vancouver Island. She was adopted into the Dakelhweel clan of the Interior Tagish people in the Yukon Territory with whom she trapped, hunted and fished in the 1970s, her fictional work, The Silence (Exile Editions $21.95), is a CD of original music performed by the author. She says it was inspired by the rugged, unspoiled beauty of the Yukon Territory and “the deep peace found in wild places.” 9781550967944

A freight wagon on the Cariboo Road in the Fraser Canyon, by Edward Roper, circa 1887; around the time a freight wagon on the Cariboo Road in the Fraser Canyon, by Edward Roper, circa 1887; around the time Strother Purcell reached the area.

The Death and Life of Strother Purcell

by Ian Weir

(Goose Lane Editions $22.95)

BY VALERIE GREEN

The genius of this well-crafted story is that what happened in those years is told through numerous written accounts from different people. Perhaps this might prove to be confusing to the reader, which it certainly is on occasion, but it also shows how legends are born and exaggerated through the years. What is the real truth?

The only problem for Weir as a storyteller is that he needs an exceptional conclusion to bring together Strother Purcell with his estranged step-brother. So should Strother Purcell be portrayed as a legendary lawman, or should he be depicted as the one-eyed radical he later became? And was his stepbrother truly an unspeakable murderer?

Even the prologue is extraordinary. It reads as if the actual editor of this book is talking about the manuscript he just received from Ian Weir, the author; but instead it is really all part of the story. It’s a very creative and unusual way to begin a story.

The only problem a reader might encounter is trying to keep track of the myriad of characters, some of whom change their names throughout the story. The time period switches from the 1870s to the 1890s with alacrity, and then goes back even further to the years between 1844 and 1850. I found myself constantly back-tracking to confirm who was who.

Regardless, Weir manages to build the tension and hold your attention to the final scene. At the beginning and at the end of the story, he writes: “They were passing into myth before the snow had commenced to fall in earnest on that bleak midwinter afternoon, blurring the hard distinction of this world. So it is not possible with confidence to say where certainties begin and end. There were three of them; this much at least is beyond dispute…”

Ian Weir’s previous novels are Daniel O’Thunder (DM, 2009) and Will Starling (Goose Lane, 2014). 9781773100296

Valerie Green has published more than twenty books, most recently Dunmora: The Story of a Heritage Manor House on Vancouver Island (Hancock House, 2017). Her soon-to-be-released debut novel Provision (Sandra Jonas Publishing) begins a family saga set in 19th century BC.
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E.J. Hughes is now second only to Emily Carr in terms of his market value as a Western Canadian artist. In November, Hughes’ painting Fish Boats, Rivers Inlet sold for $2 million at an auction in Toronto. “He never went to an opening of any exhibition of his work,” says biographer Robert Amos, “and he avoided interviews. He just wanted to paint.”

As a “travelogue,” we follow Hughes up the island, from the ferry landing at Sidney, past the Hotel. Far from behaving like a hermit, Hughes went to lunch at the Snug at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel. According to Amos, he painted more pictures of the Snug than people was largely practical. “For Hughes, who was never good at meeting the public or promoting himself, a dealer provided not only the assurance of a steady income and a degree of protection from the world at large but, for more artistic purposes, his public face.”

The pressure of generating new work was apparent in Hughes’ replies to Stern, who sometimes offered harsh criticism. “I would like to start work and work and work each one,” Hughes wrote, “until it goes me a good feeling, but you can realize that this would permit me to produce only three or four paintings a year, and I could not make a living at that kind of work.”

“The way it is now, the occasional painting is a godsend, one in five or six, I think, but the last is due a lot to happy accident when they are turned out so fast, and that I don’t like.” Monroe sure would lose out if he had spent only two of the four or five years he took to complete it. “It is thinking about him that partly makes me feel so anxious to sell away a ‘bad’ painting.”

By the early 1950s, Hughes’ paintings were part of every major public collection from Ontario to Vancouver, but his reputation was not firmly established until he reached old age.

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not at all aware of the unusual quality of his work, an artist who was not really controlled by his own talent. He—as if he had done seven years earlier in the case of Emily Carr, whose representative and agent I had become.—I decided on the spot to take Hughes under my wing.”

The relationship between artist and agent became an enduring friendship balanced by much correspondence. Then wrote, “For Hughes, who was never good at meeting the public or promoting himself, a dealer provided not only the assurance of a steady income and a degree of protection from the world at large but, for more artistic purposes, his public face.”

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By the early 1950s, Hughes’ paintings were part of every major public collection from Ontario to Vancouver, but his reputation was not firmly established until he reached old age.
The Aging of Aquarius: Igniting Passion and Purpose as an Elder by Helen Wilkes

BY ALAN BELK

I have always wanted to change the world, to make it a better place. Perhaps you have, too. Lots of things get in the way: education, raising children, working in a job you may hate, divorcing acrimoniously, retiring. But if you are in the last of these life stages, then the good news is you still have a chance to do what you have always wanted. What do you have a better chance of being successful now because retirement will free you to use the experience you have gained over a lifetime of growth. We live in a culture that does not always celebrate age and the wisdom that accrues with it, as evidenced by the unflattering words available to describe those of us of pensionable age.

Wilkes, a retired professor of French literature, chooses to describe herself as an elder, a term that acknowledges wisdom is a cultural resource, particularly not only in societies that do not primarily transmit culture through writing. But wisdom, perhaps, in the age of Wikipedia is not as valued as it should be. Elder is an instructive term because it shows that we seniors need to define ourselves and reject the false labels that are pasted on us. We must be active, not passive, and being an elder is an activity we can engage with and participate in.

But elders may be at a bit of a loss when it comes to changing the world because no one has given us a game plan, and it is difficult to break out from a lifetime of conforming to social expectations. Fortunately, Wilkes helps us along the way with some practical advice.

Elderhood is not conferred by virtue of age; there is no greeting card, no pensionable age. It is that we of us of those of us of this time is an activity we can participate in.

The key to being an elder is to offer your wisdom as a gift to other people, particularly in small ways. Reading for people, making music, having conversations with others, we are not living a virtuous life. As an elder, if you know what you are good at and what you like doing, your own self-assessment and self-assessment are important. Do you want to do something you are comfortable with or do you want to take risks and extend your comfort zone? The key to being an elder is to offer your wisdom as a gift to other people, often in small ways.

Self-examination can be difficult, particularly if we view ourselves in terms of success or failure, and it is challenging because we may not want to see what we find. At the end of each chapter, Wilkes provides a section on “Ideas and Actions.” For example, “Have you been hiding in a false self?” Write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become. Then write down the names of any voices that do not represent who you want to become.

The voices inside our heads are powerful and difficult to ignore. I suspect we pay more attention to the negative ones than the positive ones, to our detriment. But it is never too late to challenge and overcome them, and if we sit down with a paper and pencil and try to answer honestly Wilkes’s question, then we are made slightly better even by that action, because we have acted positively to address something that may have been bottling us up for most of our lives. Improving our own lives by knowing ourselves better and being honest with ourselves is one part of becoming an elder. The other part is to give to other people. As an elder, if you know what you are good at and what you like doing, and you have overcome your false self.

What can you do? You must find your own answer to this question, but some activities that can have a great effect on other people’s lives can be simple to do. Reading for people, making music, having conversations with people, talking about your life history, teaching people, or protesting pipelines and dams. Some of the over 200 activists protesting the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion are retirees.

The thread running through The Aging of Aquarius is that improving ourselves through honest self-assessment and self-appraisal must be coupled with a desire to better the lives of other people, and we must act on that desire to be successful in bettering ourselves. This reflects the idea of Aristotelian virtue, which is that we must balance our responsibility to ourselves with our responsibilities toward others in order to flourish as human beings. If we concentrate only on our own wellbeing, or if we sacrifice ourselves to ensure the happiness of others, we are not living a virtuous life. And if we do not lead a virtuous life, we cannot be spiritually happy.

One possible downside of self-examination is having to face up to one’s own death. For Wilkes, who escaped Nazi Germany as a girl in 1939, coming to terms with death has heightened her own spirituality and made her more open to the possibility of an afterlife. For me, not so much.

But we do agree on one thing. Compared to the richness of life, and the unlimited potential of human beings to flourish in their lives, death is not significant. If you accept this view, you will want to become an elder, and Helen Wilkes can help you do that.

Alan Belk of Vancouver drove a school bus before teaching ethics, critical thinking, existentialism, and philosophy to students at the University of Guelph.

Helen Wilkes opposing a pipeline.
Patrick Lane is Woodcock winner

Born in Nelson in 1939, poet and novelist Patrick Lane is this year’s recipient of the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for an outstanding literary career in British Columbia. He will receive his award on Saturday, April 27, 1-3 p.m., at the Vancouver Public Library, 385 Menzies St, Victoria. Free event.

Dear Evelyn

learned late last year that her novel for her second book, City of Vancouver Book Award

CHELENE KNIGHT

THE THREE FINALISTS FOR THE BASIL STUART-Stubbs Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Book on British Columbia, established in memory of Basil Stuart-Stubbs, a beloved bibliophile, scholar and librarian, are:

Don’t Never Tell Nobody Nothin’ No How: The Real Story of West Coast Rum Running by Rick James (Harbour); Claiming the Land: British Columbia and the making of a new El Dorado by Daniel Marshall (Ronsdale Press); Incorporating Culture: How Indigenous People are Reshaping the Northwest Coast Art Industry by Solen Roth (UBC Press).

Chelese Knight wins the 30th City of Vancouver Book Award for her second book, Dear Current Occupant, a memoir about living at more than twenty addresses while growing up in Vancouver. “When I wrote Dear Current Occupant,” she says, “I went to the place that scared me the most. I found the one thing that punched me in the stomach and I wrote to that feeling, that memory, those wishes.”

In a series of letters addressed to current occupants, as she peers through windows into remembered spaces, Knight recalls aspects of growing up with her brother in a variety of neighborhoods, including the Downtown Eastside where her mother still lives.

She told co-nominee Travis Lupick for a Georgia Straight article: “There are so many stories of struggle and abuse and neglect. I think that a lot of young girls think, ‘Well, that’s my path. This is what I’ve seen, this is the way I grew up, and this is the only way to go.’

“I’m showing folks that ‘Yes, this is kind of rough stuff, but…there is light at the end of the tunnel. You can go through all of these things and still be bloody amazing.’

A graduate of The Writer’s Studio at SFU, Knight was featured on the cover of JRC BookWorld when she released her first poetry collection, Braided Skin (Mother Tongue, 2015), largely emanating from experiences arising from her poverty, urban upbringing and youthfulness while growing up as a mixed East Indian/Black teen.
Darrel McLeod’s memoir, *Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age*, has won a Governor General’s Award because it offers a brutally honest view of the havoc that intergenerational trauma can wreak across multiple lives.

**Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age**

by Darrel McLeod

(Douglas & McIntyre $29.95)

**BY DAVID MILWARD**

Although *Mamaskatch* by Darrel McLeod is intensely biographical, it has a seemingly fictional prose that is reminiscent of Beatrice Culleton’s highly personal, 1983 classic, *In Search of April Raintree*. McLeod’s narrative describes his early life with his mother, Bertha, his brother Greggie (later known as Trina following gender reassignment), and his sister Debbie.

Bertha started off as the kind of mother many Indigenous youths would love to have. She was in tune with the ebb and flows of the natural world and the spiritual teachings they provide, which in turn she eagerly shared with her children.

But Bertha’s early life with her mother, Bertha, his brother Greggie and another involved attempting to set fire to the house while the children were still in it.

Sooke when not performing in Victoria and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. McLeod now writes, sings and plays jazz guitar for the federal government and executive director of education and inter-

McLeod also suffered from microaggression, a form of a lowborn race, an erosion of personal agency that can’t take any more.

Mamaskatch is a Cree word used as a response to dreams.

In an interview with CBC Radio’s Shelagh Rogers for the *Next Chapter*, Darrel McLeod explained his personal connection to this word: “The word, Mamaskatch, has stuck with me over the years. Mom used it a lot when we were kids when things happened that were a bit extraordinary.”

“I gave the book that title after going online with some fluent Cree speakers. I asked them what it meant and they gave various meanings, ranging from, ‘How strange’ to ‘It’s a miracle.’”

“I hope more people, especially non-Indigenous people, read *Mamaskatch* to gain the insights that it offers on the social problems plaguing Indigenous peoples, and how the residential schools are not just a thing of the past to be forgotten, but have left behind an enduring legacy that cannot be ignored.”

About *Mamaskatch*

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9781711620204

David Milward is an associate professor of law with UVic and a member of the Beardy’s & Okemasis First Nation of Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. He assisted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the authoring of its final report on Indigenous justice issues. Milward’s books include Aboriginal Justice and the Charter: Reclaiming a Culturally Sensitive Interpretation of Legal Rights (UBC Press, 2013).
The Last Suffragist Standing: The Life and Times of Laura Marshall Jamieson

Veronica Strong-Boag has fashioned a lively biography of Laura Marshall Jamieson (1882-1964), the last suffragist to serve in a Canadian legislature.

From a variety of sources—including interviews with descendants and records left by contemporaries—Veronica Strong-Boag has uncovered many details and has set them firmly in the context of the times, for The Last Suffragist Standing: The Life and Times of Laura Marshall Jamieson.

After growing up on a poor Ontario farm, Laura Marshall Jamieson (1882-1964) briefly taught in the Crow’s Nest Pass, graduated at the University of Toronto, worked for the WYCA in Stratford, Ontario, and joined the John Stewart Jamieson, a member of the Liberal Party, and moved to Burnaby.

The focus of this book is on Jamieson’s work for reforms, especially those affecting women, and her election to the provincial legislature to become, according to her biographer, the last Canadian suffragist to serve in a legislature.

Her education, her active role in Vancouver’s University Women’s Club, and her husband’s position put Jamieson into the middle class, but she was uneasy with that status. She criticized the “patronizing” attitude of some middle class women to the impoverished, their non-recognition of the rights of domestic servants, and the failure of suffragists such as herself to seek other reforms, such as minimum wage laws, to improve women’s lives.

Similarly, in the mid-1940s when women were still cautious about participating in public life, Jamieson complained of their “strong inferiority complex” and hesitation about taking on tasks of citizenship that would have the public see them “as ordinary people first and as citizens, before it thinks of them specifically as women.”

Jamieson practised what she preached. She saw education and internationalism as the keys to solving “global problems” and “achieving a fair deal for women.” As the mother of young children, her involvement in the Parent-Teacher Association seems natural, but Strong-Boag suggests that Jamieson wanted to use the PTA to promote internationalism.

When the international situation deteriorated in the late 1930s, Hitler changed Jamieson’s belief in pacifism. She called for trade embargos to belligerents. Given her husband’s part-time position as a juvenile court judge in Burnaby, a position to which she succeeded after his death, Jamieson became an expert on child welfare. She called for sex education, even for young children, and for the establishment of nursery schools and of community centres where older children could enjoy recreational and cultural activities.

In 1938, she resigned her judgeship to resolve, through politics, what she considered the root cause of juvenile delinquency, the lack of “food and political activity.” When she was still making in 1953.

Although she could not vote for them in 1916, Jamieson favoured the provincial Liberals because they supported women’s suffrage. Despite their introduction of such reforms as Mother’s Pensions, Jamieson thought the Liberals abandoned their progressive sympathies after granting the franchise, so she looked elsewhere. Attracted by the ideas of socialists about public ownership of utilities and equal pay for equal work, in 1920 she announced that she had joined the Federated Labour Party.

By supporting socialism and internationalism in the 1920s, Jamieson put herself on the periphery of women’s political activity.” Yet, when she ran as a CCF candidate for a provincial seat in a 1939 Vancouver by-election, some Liberal and Conservative women helped her successful campaign.

Strong-Boag suggests that moving away from “mainstream clubwomen” have contributed to Jamieson’s defeat in the 1945 provincial election. That may be so, but in 1941 the Liberals and the Conservatives split the non-left vote; in 1945, Coalition candidates secured both Liberal and Conservative votes.

Jamieson was not long out of electoral politics. Elected as a Vancouver alderman, she argued for progressive reforms, particularly low-rent housing, but could not persuade city council to adopt this idea. In 1952, she re-entered provincial politics after the Coalition disintegrated, but lost in 1953 by a narrow margin to a candidate of the New Social Credit government.

A feminist champion of social democracy, Jamieson had been deeply involved with the CCP from its beginnings even though, as Strong-Boag notes, many party members assumed that men had the right to lead the party with women serving only in an auxiliary role. It is telling that one of Jamieson’s last public appearances was at the founding convention of the New Democratic Party in 1961 where she presided over a meeting of 300 women.

In relating Jamieson’s story, Strong-Boag presents fresh material on the well-known divisions within the CCP, especially between democratic socialists or social democrats like Jamieson and doctrinaire Marxists, notably Dorothy Stowe, at times, the only other female member of the CCF caucus.

Outside the legislature, Jamieson combined her belief in the importance of educating people, especially women, about current events, and the need to supplement her income. When her husband died of blood poisoning, he left only a modest income to support two school-aged children. Jamieson created study groups from whose members she collected fees.

She also applied her belief in the value of co-operative housing by taking in boarders, a precedent for the communal residences for employed women that she set up in Vancouver. Her favouring of co-operatives was sincere; she urged CCF members to patronize co-operative ventures such as grocery stores.

Strong-Boag summarily concludes that Jamieson was more concerned about injustice based on class and gender than on race. Jamieson did favour an easing of restrictions on immigration from China and India to permit family reunification but was cautious in speaking out about the Japanese. Yet, during the war she endorsed the Vancouver Consulting Committee for Japanese Canadians and the practice for Japanese Canadians while favouring their dispersal across Canada.

Strong-Boag recognizes Jamieson’s imperfections especially in respect to Indigenous peoples. In British Columbia, Jamieson did, however, have little interest in its Indigenous residents, but in what was likely a draft for a speech relatively late in her career, Jamieson wrote approvingly of efforts to integrate Indigenous children into the public schools of Vancouver.

The Last Suffragist Standing is lively and informative; the descriptions and analyses of the times make a valuable contribution to the wider historiography of women’s political activity in Canada and to British Columbia politics in general.

Laura Marshall Jamieson would undoubtedly be pleased with this study of her life and times.

Patricia E. Roy is professor emerita of history at the University of Victoria. She is best known for her trilogy of books, A White Man’s Province (1989), The Oriental Question (2003), and The Triumph of Citizenship (2007).
Rick Hansen’s world famous adventure did not start well. It was March 1985 and the weather was miserable. Before he could wheel 40,000 kilometres through 34 countries in eighteen months, his support vehicle got into an accident coming out of a shopping mall parking lot in Vancouver. The challenges of the opening day were simply a foretaste of the barriers to come, whether it was Rick’s physical endurance, weather conditions, technical troubles, or the lack of attention the tour got in its early days. Along the way his trainer and road manager wiped out on his bicycle and was nearly killed. A car that slowed to give Hansen room was rear-ended. Misreads of a map made the Man in Motion wheel far further than planned. But the “man” and his team pushed on to complete the tour and initially raise $26 million for spinal cord research and support services for people with disabilities in the process. Equally important, he proved that people with disabilities had great potential if they pushed hard and long to realize their dreams. This all happened because, at age fifteen, coming home from a camping trip to Bella Coola, Rick Hansen was thrown from the back of a pickup truck and rendered a paraplegic by a broken back. Family and friends in Williams Lake, in the years immediately following the accident, helped him temper his bitterness and anger with their support and turn it into a deep acceptance of cooperation as the true source of strength, love, and partnership. Hansen proceeded to make himself into one of the most decorated wheelchair athletes in the world prior to his global tour at age 27.

Now Jake MacDonald, a journalist based in Winnipeg, has woven a wonderful tapestry of descriptions, memories, tributes, and reflections into a compelling reminder of just how ridiculous and remarkable Rick Hansen’s dream was, and how many people it took to make it a success. We live in a culture dominated by the celebration of what Montreal-based philosopher Charles Taylor has called “expressive individualism.” In that context, the glories of the individual are highlighted. That perspective is expressed by astronaut Chris Hadfield in the front cover quote, “Rick is an amazing person, an inspiration, and one of the truly great Canadians. No matter where life takes me, I look up to him.” I think Hansen himself captures the soul of MacDonald’s account better in a quote at the beginning of the last chapter. “The Tour transformed everyone who was involved with it. By working together for a common goal, we suffered together, supported each other, and became better versions of ourselves.” The book is filled with wonderful stories to back up this perspective. It was a team approach that made the tour possible. MacDonald’s selection of a rich range of photographs adds to the book’s impact. By my rough count, only eight out of the 150 photos show Rick alone. And even then, the photographer and who knows how many other people are just out of sight: another telling tribute to the team on the tour. A great chapter in the book, “Taking Care of Business,” chronicles the support work that took place in the office in Vancouver, far from the cheering crowds and media. It was filled with volunteers who stuffed envelopes, licked stamps, and answered phones. It morphed into the vast network that is the Rick Hansen Foundation. To date, that power of community has raised over $326 million for people living with and recovering from spinal cord injuries.

Man in Motion World Tour recalls the adventures of the world’s most photographed wheelchair athlete.
**Eve Lazarus’ Murder by Milkshake recalls the biographical drama of a husband gradually killing his wife by spiking her milkshakes with arsenic.**

Vancouver College graduate Rene Castellani married Esther Luond at Holy Rosary Cathedral in 1946. In the early 1960s he became an ambitious radio personality at CKNW. While Esther worked part-time at Cordell’s women’s wear, raised their daughter, Jeannine, and loved nothing better than a White Spot burger, fries and milkshake, Castellani invented on-air personas such as Klatu from “The Day the Earth Stood Still,” which he masqueraded as the Maharaja of Alseebah. At the radio station, Rene fell for receptionist Lolly Miller, a widow, fifteen years younger than Esther. Although her birth name was Adeladea, “Lolly the Dolly” was the name that stuck at the radio station.

In May 1965, Lolly was fired over the amorous relationship, despite being the sole parent for her six-year-old son. Rene was spared, partly because his wife had become seriously ill with a condition that baffled the doctors. In July, Esther died after more than six agonizing weeks at Vancouver General Hospital. One day after Esther’s funeral, Rene, Lolly and the two children from their different marriages drove off in a CKNW car for a holiday in Disneyland.

It is for the dogged determination of Dr. Bernard Moscovitch, the internist who had cared for Esther, the death would not have been attributed to arsenic poisoning. Two Vancouver police detectives found the source of the poisoning under the kitchen sink at the Castellani home—weed killer. Rene was arrested, charged and convicted of murder. Sentenced to death, his punishment was commuted to life in prison less than two weeks before he was due to hang.

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**True Crime Review**

**Eve Lazarus’ Murder by Milkshake**

How an egotist’s extra-marital affair with a CKNW receptionist named Lolly led to murder.

By Larry Hannant

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**E. J. Hughes Paints Vancouver Island**

By Darrell J. McLeod

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**Shoelaces are Hard and Other Thoughtful Scribbles**

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“Thought provoking books available on BCFerries Selected by Alan Twigg.”

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**VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTO**

**ARSenic, no lace**

How an egotist’s extra-marital affair with a CKNW receptionist named Lolly led to murder.

By Eve Lazarus

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**DARRELL J. McLEOD OF SOOKE, WHO FOLLOWED THE CONTEST OF RENE CASTELLANI WITH AN EXTENDED ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE TRAUMA ON JEANNINE CASTELLANI, THE COUPLE’S DAUGHTER. UNDERSTANDABLY TROUBLED BY THE LOSS OF HER MOTHER AND THE REALIZATION OF HER FATHER’S CRIME AND HIS RUTHLESS MANIPULATION OF HER, JEANNINE STRUGGLED FOR YEARS TO ADDRESS THE CATASTROPHE THAT CONSUMED HER YOUTH. THE FOCUS ON JEANNINE ALSO REVEALS A LAUDABLE EFFORT TO MINIMIZE THE EXPLOITATION THAT IS FELT BY SOME SURVIVORS OF ACTUAL CRIMES WHO ARE FEATURED LATER IN BOOKS AND FILMS. AS A SOCIAL HISTORY, Murder by Milkshake gives us a portrait of a city still on the brink of finding itself, far from today’s shimmering metropolises that’s consistently among the top ten of the world’s most livable cities. That snapshot of a city populated by ambitious, struggling people gives the book special merit.”

9781551527468

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**ART • MEMOIR • HISTORY • STORIES**

**Mike McCardell**

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Prior to the internment of Japanese Canadians in British Columbia, in 1942, two young friends named Michiko (Michi) and Esther are both hankering to own the most popular dolls on display in a Vancouver storefront window—the Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret dolls, in keeping with the British Empire’s idealization of its royal family as heroic figures. The two friends share a birthday so they are simultaneously hoping their wished-for sister dolls might be able to play together. Esther’s grandmother, who is deeply concerned about the fate of Jewish relatives in Europe, gives the Elizabeth doll to Esther. When Michi doesn’t receive the Margaret doll, jealousy arises and the friendship falters; then it’s almost severed when Michiko’s family must close their corner store and are interned away from the coast. That’s the premise for Ellen Schwartz’s The Princess Dolls (Tradewind $19.95), illustrated by Mariko Ando. For readers aged 9-12. 9781926890081

200-year-old pine tree Karen Autio recalls the place where Syilx/Okanagan people trapped wild horses in Growing Up in Wild Horse Canyon (Crwth $25.95). When she began researching the area, Autio got hooked on what had happened there over the past two centuries. Weaving together First Nation history, European settler accounts and natural history, Autio’s story coalesced when she began imagining a ponderosa pine tree growing in the canyon for 200 years. Maps, old photos, and illustrations by Loraine Kemp complement the text. For ages 7-10. 978-1-77533-190-2

The great animal race suitable for ages up to 3, and drawing on the Chinese zodiac, Jen Sookfong Lee’s The Animals of Chinese New Year (Orca $9.95) follows twelve animals as they speed across a river, competing to represent the imminent new year in a race held by the Jade Emperor, the most powerful Chinese god. Each animal competes in its own unique way. The ox works hard, the tiger is brave, the dog smiles kindly, but who will win? Photographs of babies demonstrating the same traits as the animals in the text, complemented by traditional Chinese graphic elements, accompany the bilingual text, with a translation by Kileasa Che Wan Wong.

Understanding death Merrie-Ellen Wilcox frequently heard there was a need for a book about death for readers ages 9-12. Each chapter of her After Life: Ways We Think About Death (Orca $24.95) includes a brief telling of a death legend, myth or historical summation from a different culture. Rivers play a role in the afterlife of many cultures. “The souls of the dead often have to cross a river before they enter the other realm of the afterlife... In Greek mythology, five rivers surrounded the underworld: Acheron (the river of woe), Cocytus (the river of lamentation), Phlegethon (the river of fire), Styx (the river of hatred) and Lethe (the river of forgetfulness). The souls of the dead drank from the River Lethe in order to forget their lives on earth.”
Shoelaces are hard; bestsellers are not easy

With his 13th book, Mike McCardell and his publisher have raised $100,000 for B.C. charities, approximately $1 per book. Sheldon Goldfarb pays tribute by mimicking his style.

Mike McCardell likes editors. Not the sort of editor who tells you what you mustn't end a sentence with. No, he likes editors who give him story ideas for his daily piece on the television news program, or ideas for how to shape those ideas. And these editors don’t have to be “editors”; they can be his wife or his cameraman, or anyone who can give him a little help.

This book is in part about giving help. The title story is about how you can learn to tie your shoelaces if you get a little help. Another story is about how a kindly bus driver got him to his uncle’s funeral and the unhappy story about a planter overflowing with garbage—but when someone fixes up the planter and makes it green again, that’s his kind of story. Uplifting, upbeat, sometimes offbeat.

Like the four-year-old who likes to let his tobgoggan fly off a hill and chase after it, which leads to a scene in which there’s a tobgoggan chased by a four-year-old boy who in turn is chased by a 48-year-old cameraman who himself is chased by a 74-year-old reporter, with the boy’s grandmother bringing up the rear, and with the reporter worrying about the camera getting wet from the snow and the television engineer being baffled because they’ve never heard of snow.

Oh, did I mention that he’s sometimes funny too, and wanders off into detours—I mean writing detours in these little stories, but of course also detours in the course of hunting for stories, which he does by going out and looking for something that he doesn’t know is there in the hopes of turning it into something amusing for the six o’clock news—and for this book of “scribbles.”

He has his pet peeves, though: he’s not always upbeat. He likes the old ways, the old playgrounds where you might fall down and get hurt, and cry and someone would hug you ‘til you felt better. He prefers those to the sanitized playgrounds, which he almost missed except for the kindly bus driver. He’s a bit of an old-fashioned gentle populist celebrating hope, hope and belief: belief that you can learn to tie your shoelaces if you get a little help. That help, which he almost missed except for the kindly bus driver, which he almost missed except for the kindly bus driver...

Be natural—but not “natural” like the back-to-nature yoga practitioner being one with a tree because his leader told him to do that and who won’t talk to McCardell without his leader’s permission.

Mike doesn’t much like it when people don’t talk to him, and he gets positively grumpy about the rise of media relations departments that stop him from dropping in on firefighters and police officers. He doesn’t like bureaucracy and red tape and politicians with their five-syllable words and people without disabilities who use parking spots for people with disabilities. And he’s not a fan of guns (he tries to satire on this, which is not really his thing) and gets very angry at arrogant drug dealers who kill innocent bystanders.

But mostly he is gentle and upbeat and brings a smile to your face or a tear to your eye, or he may light a cigarette or tell you about a grilled cheese sandwich in the middle of a story that has nothing to do with grilled cheese sandwiches, or he has some words of wisdom to pass along about thinking good thoughts or humanity or the changeability of perspectives and the different sorts of truth.

And he has his mantras, like the one about “we the people,” people like the Puerto Rican bus driver who helped him get to the funeral and the recycling man from Smithrite who picked up a piece of garbage. But he’s not too fond of rich people or of rules, like the rules for Masonic rituals that delayed his uncle’s funeral, which he almost missed except for the kindly bus driver.

He’s a bit of an old-fashioned gentle populist celebrating ordinary people and reminding us to learn to tie our shoelaces because if we were on an island without Velcro, the tide might come in and wash our shoes away.

Sheldon Goldfarb is the author of The Hundred-Year Trek: A History of Student Life at UBC (Heritage House, 2017). His murder mystery, Remember, was nominated for an Arthur Ellis crime writing award in 2005.
Thanks for Giving by Kevin Loring (Talon $19.95) Gracie by Joan MacLeod (Talon $16.95)

BY GINNY RATSOY

Kevin Loring, artistic director of Indigenous Theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, has written this richly expressionistic work, Thanks for Giving, which features a cast of eight. Joan MacLeod’s Gracie is set in a rural B.C. community, and is accompanied by the Bear Dancer.

The play begins with a marvellously succinct but brutal story about the Bear Dancer’s role as a guide to early humans, accompanied by the Bear Singer herself. Nan’s culture links twin births to grizzlies, and her family is replete with twins.

When, unbeknownst to her, Nan’s Caucassian husband Clifford shoots a grizzly (ostensibly in self-defense, but, actually, we later learn, for profit) and her curb, the echo reverberates across the mountain valley and into their home.

As three generations meet in their remote village for Thanksgiving dinner, truths are laid bare. Nan’s unrelatable daughter Sue has addiction issues, and Nan’s twin sons share a digitized wax cylinder recording of their great-great-grandmother singing a Bear Song.

Post dinner, as the characters share past experiences, tensions ease up slightly. Nan and Sue accept Sam, and Marie’s sexual orientation, and Clifford even shares a traumatic childhood experience of his own when his father shot his beloved dog. However, some frictions, such as that between John and Marie, who cannot abide the thought of her brother risking his life for their colonizer, are not easily allayed.

Above all, to Nan, the bear shooter is unforgettable. The present trauma precipitates a series of revelations by Nan: she divulges that she is a residential school survivor and recounts a story she has long regretted about a Chief’s daughter and a grizzly transformed into human form who parented twins, who could themselves transform into bears. Thus, her husband and grandson have committed an abomination against her family’s culture. Act One ends with expressionistic encounters recording of their great-great-grandmother singing a Bear Song for twins. Marie, who has earlier revealed that she is pregnant, announces that her water has broken. The play ends with newborn twins secure in their ancestors’ arms.

Thanks for Giving, a compelling unveiling of intergenerational trauma, interdependence, and human hairiness, is a profoundly important addition to the growing body of Indigenous drama in Canada.

IN 2001 I NOTED THAT, JOAN MacLeod, in The Hope Slide, domesticated social issues. She favours private, rather than public spaces, intensely develops a single character (most of her works are one-hander’s) and, through that prism, sheds light on issues ranging from eating disorders to bullying, from urban devastation to mistreatment of people with intellectual challenges. With Gracie, MacLeod successfully continues her modus operandi: the titular character moves with her family from a Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) colony in the U.S. to its equivalent in B.C. Apparently, the tenets and practices of Mormon fundamentalist groups can vary; however, Gracie’s sect is dominated by leaders who practice polygamy and decide to whom the female members can be assigned.

We are privy to Gracie’s life from ages 8 to 15. MacLeod poignantly conveys the sheer obliviousness of a child who has known no other world than one where children raise children, material possessions are in short supply, virtually triarchical nature of the FLDS assuages privilege to all male members, MacLeod introduces the hierarchy within the patriarchy through Gracie’s older brother Billy. Unable to resign himself to finishing school after grade ten, performing low paid labour in the colony, and passively awaiting his rewards in the afterlife, he rebels, countering his mother’s attempts to erase the family’s past and catalyzing Gracie’s gradual awakening. After being banished from the sect and disowned by his mother, Billy secretly returns to school Gracie in the realities of the colony and the larger world.

Here again, MacLeod is responsible for the solo performance to great effect. As Gracie mulls over Billy’s insights into the human commodification that is the backbone of the cult’s organization, and as she watches her female siblings and friends being assigned to mates at the top of the hierarchy, she slowly confronts her own future. When things come to a head when she is assigned to an older man, she attempts escape. As her mother rushes from her stove to restrain her, she burns Gracie with hot cider.

Awakening in a public hospital, Gracie is soon visited by Billy, who reveals that his mother has disowned her, but given Billy written permission to return her to her biological father in the U.S. At times during their trip, Gracie is tempted to return to the B.C. colony; only through Billy’s diligence and insistence on recounting details of their early childhood does she gain the strength to continue the journey to their childhood home. Stories of her early history are her path to her future in the larger world.

Lily Beaudoin is trapped in a stifling, inbred, and self-segregating microcosm as Gracie at the Belfry Theatre, Victoria, 2017

Claire Mulligan celebrates locavore Jane Reid’s *Freshly Picked* as a call to action. Along the way we learn pyramid builders ate garlic for stamina and Louis XIV started the fad for snacking on fresh-shelled peas.

**BY CLAIRE MULLIGAN**

Now that I have savoured the luscious pages of *Jane Reid’s* warm-hearted and witty book *Freshly Picked: A Locavore’s Love Affair with BC’s Bounty*, I am going to tromp to every stall and apologize to all those who have given me the luscious handful of generous, unexpected confrontations. I don’t think it was a mistake that I kept pronouncing the word locavore (one who eats foods grown locally whenever possible) as locavore. Well, it was a mistake, but given the love and wisdom that infuses this book, it’s an understandable one.

Still, *Freshly Picked* is not just a celebration, it is a call to action and Reid’s chapter titles — “Give Peas a Chance,” “Bring on the Broccoli” — illustrate this.

Although *Freshly Picked* centres on the bounty in our corner of the world, it is also expansive and worldly, ranging around the globe and through history, offering perfectly-portioned anecdotes with which to delight your friends around a table (I’m picturing a long, rustic one set in an orchard).

The poor minions of *Ti-bius* pushed cucumbers around in wheelbarrows to catch the sun.

Louis XIV started the fad for snacking on fresh-shelled peas.

The pyramid builders ate garlic for stamina. Reid also weaves in delightful, personal anecdotes. In France, a young Reid falls head over heels for her first perfectly crisped beans. In B.C., Reid tracks down a garlic maestro through Craigslist and discovers a garage stocked with heirloom garlic: Russian Reds, Persian Star, etc.

At the end of each chapter, after you have appreciated the history and idiosyncrasies of, say, the strawberry, the cucumber, Reid gives, not a “recipe” as such, but a scene, a story (the recipe for stew actually riffs off an *O’Henry* story).* Freshly Picked* encourages you to imagine a cooking that has nothing to do with *The Joy of Cooking*, that massive instructional manual that could be shelved beside the *Joy of Tile Scrubbing*.

Ease is emphasized. Cut tomatoes “the size of a stamp.” Snap parsley “until you are bored.”

Set asparagus on your prettiest plate.

These are not the rigid lists of your white-aproned home economics class where you had to level off that ¾ teaspoon of extra-mild curry with a knife, squint-eyeing every grain like a scientist developing a life-saving vaccine.

“Serve with love,” is Reid’s mantra as she takes us on journeys to Pemberton and the Okanagan, to the ghost farms of Bella Coola and Salt Spring, as she reminds us that food is about reciprocity and respect, about dirt and the outdoors, about sustainability and community, as she kindly suggests we radically rethink our relationship with the growing world.

*Freshly Picked* persuades you that it is not a big deal to eat responsibly, to support your local farm economy; in fact, it is easier than the way you purchase and eat now.

You have to eat every day; why not make it an act of generosity?

While we’re on that topic of generosity, I can’t think of a better gift for that foodie in your life, that gardener, and especially that jaded producer or eater than, *Freshly Picked*.

Claire Mulligan teaches at UVic and Camosun College. She wrote The Reckoning of Boston Jim (*Brindle & Glass*, 2007), a nominee for both the Ollier and Ethel Wilson awards. Her first short film, *The Still Life of Annika Myers*, which is all about food, is currently in production.
Jean Walton revisits early 1970s Vancouver in Mudflat Dreaming, diving into confrontations around housing and development problems that reverberate into 2019.

Catch Jean Walton at the Vancouver Historical Society, Museum of Vancouver, April 25, 7:30 PM.

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*Philip Roy*
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A IS FOR ABDOU
 Angie Abdou: “I felt like women’s voices are not taken seriously in the hockey rink. They can come in and tie their kid’s skates, but then it’s like ‘get out’ once that’s done.”

B IS FOR BANTOCK
 Nick Bantock is the author and illustrator of 30 books. and impressions in prose-like iambic pentameter. His collection of seventy poetic memoirs is Half a Mile in Rain: Word Images from a Life in Flight (Coast Dog Press $29). 978-0-9950292-5-5

C IS FOR CURRIE
 Whether in a Hercules tracking the great circle route to the UK or hauling diamonds for a mining company in Africa, retired Air Canada captain, Dennis Currie, has composed his thoughts Africa as an international reporter for the Italian press from 1996 to 2000. Set in Johannesburg, Cape Town, the Kalahari Desert and Zanzibar, this story of transcultural intrigue and personal exploration is described as “a tale of hate, guilt, love and redemption under African skies.” After her colleague and lover is killed in a car-jacking, Zoe du Plessis, a paleontologist of Afrikaner origin, learns of a family secret and its relation to an old Xhosa’s curse. As she searches in the Kalahari Desert for early human fossils, Zoe also digs deeper into the sense of guilt haunting her people. 978-1-77110-357-8

D IS FOR DAGNINO
 Arianna Dagnino launched on the opening night of Vancouver’s South African Film Festival, Arianna Dagnino’s novel The Afrikaner (Guernica Editions $20) draws upon her five years in South Africa as an international reporter for the Italian press from 1996 to 2000. Set in Johannesburg, Cape Town, the Kalahari Desert and Zanzibar, this story of transcultural intrigue and personal exploration is described as “a tale of hate, guilt, love and redemption under African skies.” After her colleague and lover is killed in a car-jacking, Zoe du Plessis, a paleontologist of Afrikaner origin, learns of a family secret and its relation to an old Xhosa’s curse. As she searches in the Kalahari Desert for early human fossils, Zoe also digs deeper into the sense of guilt haunting her people. 978-1-77110-357-8

E IS FOR ERZGEBIRGE
 Sean Daly’s From the Erzgebirge to Potosí (Friesen Press $31.95) is a B.C. book like no other. As an overview of geology and mining since the 1500s, it considers the relationship between mining, geology and society, including the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution, while citing the most important strikes and protests by miners to improve their working conditions.

F IS FOR FLOOD
 Delia Bucely was abandoned by the father of her daughter before their child was born. He suddenly shows up twenty-two years later, wanting Delia to nurse him in his terminal illness. Delia accepts since she is desperate for money, hoping to keep a professional distance, but life has a way of interfering with best laid plans.

WHO’S WHO
BRITISH COLUMBIA
IN 2017, AT AGE 57, GOGS GAGNON, BECAME
ONE OF THE OVER TWO MILLION CANADIAN
MEN DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER. AFTER
SURGERY AND RECOVERY, HE DECIDED TO
SHARE HIS STORY TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO
BECOME THEIR OWN HEALTH ADVOCATES.

GAGNON REVEALS IN-FILENAME-TIMATE DETAIL
THAT EVERYONE IMPACTED BY THE DISEASE—
MEN OR WOMEN—NEEDS TO KNOW. HIS
MEMOIR PROSTATE CANCER: STRIKES—
NAVIGATING THE STORM (GRANVILLE ISLAND $18.95) OFFERS A ROUTE TOWARDS GREATER AWARENESS OF
MALE HEALTH ISSUES AND THEIR TREATMENTS.

BORN IN NEW WESTMINSTER, GAGNON HAS WORKED AS AN INDEPENDENT TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT AND DEVELOPED SOFTWARE FOR APPLE, IBM, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, SERVING PROVINCIAILY AS A LEAD PROGRAMMER ANALYST AND DATA ARCHITECT. HIS NEXT BOOK IS A COMING-OF-AGE NOVEL SET IN B.C.’S LOWER MAINLAND DURING THE 1970S. HE LIVES IN THE COMOX VALLEY ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Gogs Gagnon

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Gogs Gagnon
Is for Quenching
Starting with the premise, "As China goes, so goes the world," Robert Sanford unpacks China's water crisis and uses it to analyze Canada's own deteriorating water situation in Quenching the Dragon: The Canada-China Water Crisis (RMB $16).

Part travelogue, part essay, part call to action, the book follows Sanford on two separate journeys from his Canmore, Alberta home to Chinese cities Tianjin and Guizhou. Along the way, Sanford offers commentary on water problems sweeping the world—from the collapse of fisheries, to mega dam construction, to lake eutrophication, to weather modification and ocean acidification.

Sanford is a water advisor to the InterAction Council, an independent non-profit organization that brings together former world leaders to develop recommendations and foster cooperation on positive action for water matters around the world. 978-1-77041-427-3

Is for Riches
Food Banks Nations: Poverty, Corporate Charity and the Right to Food (Earthscan/Routledge $39.95) by Graham Richards has been described as a critique of domestic hunger in the rich (OEC-D) world. Richards outlines the moral vacuum at the centre of neoliberalism "driven by the corporate capture (Big Food; Big Ag) of food charity (U.S. style charity versus Europe's) and explores the role of civil society to hold indifferent governments to account. Food/Big Ag) of food charity (U.S. style charity versus Europe's) and explores the role of civil society to hold indifferent governments to account.

Riches presents a human rights counter-narrative to the feeding of 'left-over' food to 'left behind' people and explores the role of civil society to hold indifferent governments to account. 978-1-77041-428-0

Is for Scott
Prairie-raised ex-fisherman and yacht salesman Joel Scott of Chemainus has crafted his second contemporary, sea-faring, adventure novel, Arrow’s Fall (ECW $18.95), as a follow-up to his 2018 debut Arrow’s Right, set off the coast of Mexico. In Arrow’s Fall, Jared Kane, orphaned at a young age, but raised by strict Christian grandparents on a farm, Kane becomes father to a half-Haida son. He also serves two years in jail on a trumped-up assault charge before setting sail for the dangerous waters of the Great Sea Reef of Fiji, lured by a sunken 18th century ship laden with gold. A life-and-death sailing battle ensues with ex-marine Lord Barclay and his crew of mercenaries aboard the 240-foot Golden Dragon. 978-1-77041-427-3

Is for T'selxwéyeq
Having co-edited a Rodgerick Haig-Brown Regional BC Book Prize-winning atlas in 2001, David M. Schaepe has proceeded to edit the mammoth Being T’selxwéyeqw: First Peoples’ Voices and History from the Chilliwack-Fraser Valley, British Columbia (Harbour $94.95) by the Ts’elxwéyeqw Tribe in which 85 place names are traced and explained. The traditional territory of the Ts’elxwéyeqw First Peoples covers over 95,000 hectares of land in the entire Chilliwack River Valley.

The Chilliwack region gets its name from the Ts’elxwéyeqw tribe. Being T’selxwéyeqw portrays the people, artifacts and landscapes that are central to the Ts’elxwéyeqw people, and represents a rich oral record of an aboriginal heritage spanning thousands of years. 978-1-55017-818-0

U is for U-Brew
With the explosion of kombucha drinks on North American store shelves, it was only a matter of time before a guide to brewing the probiotic fermented tea appeared. DIY Kombucha: Sparkling Homebrews Made Easy (New Society $29.99) by Vancouver chef and registered holistic nutritionist Andrea Potter offers practical easy recipes that don’t require expensive equipment or hard-to-find ingredients. Readers will find out what a SCOBY is (basically, it’s the culture used to make Kombucha but there’s a long story behind it), Kombucha history and other interesting facts such as how to prevent bottles of fizzy drink from exploding. DIY Kombucha also explores similar health drinks such as kombucha’s honey-fed relative jun, and water kefir. 978-0-86571-887-6
Michael G. Varga

Tells the stories of his 40 years spent as a cameraman in Inside View: The Eye Behind the Lens (Self published $19.67). Working with the CBC, Varga covered NHL hockey games, Grey Cup games, nine Olympics, four Commonwealth Games, the Pan Am Games, World Track and Field, FIFA World Cup, World Cup Skiing, figure skating championship and more. Varga was at the Calgary Olympics in 1986 when the world was introduced to Eddie the Eagle and the Jamaican bobsledgers. Throughout there are revelations about what it’s like working at the “Mother Corp,” as CBC is known to those who work there. 978-1-9994-026-2-4


Lee Edward Fodi’s The Secret of Zoone (HarperCollins $21) tracks the adventures of a boy called Ozzie as he goes to the magical Zoone with the blue tiger, named Tig. Fodi is a children’s author, or daydreaming expert as he prefers to describe himself, who has authored the Chronicles of Ken-dra Kandlestar series. Ozzie and Tig’s story may well be the start of a new series. 978-0-06-284526-9

Chew Lai Keen (front row, third from left) with his wife, Mon Ho Low, surrounded by their Quesnel-born children (From Wah Lee to Chew Keen).

The story of how Wah Lee and his wife, Mon Ho Low, travelled from Xinhuixian (formerly Sun-wui County) in China to B.C. in 1917, via the Sun Ning Railway corridor and Hong Kong, begins the family memoir, From Wah Lee to Chew Keen: The Story of a Pioneer Chinese Family in North Cariboo (Friesen Press $17.49), by relative Liping Wong Yip. The couple settled in Quesnel where Wah Lee became known as Chew Lai Keen, and the couple had six children. [Tzu-I Chung reviews this book in The Ormsby Review.] 9781460294307

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Poetry and prose
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X IS FOR XINHUIXIAN

The story of how Wah Lee and his wife, Mon Ho Low, travelled from Xinhuixian (formerly Sun-wui County) in China to B.C. in 1917, via the Sun Ning Railway corridor and Hong Kong, begins the family memoir. From Wah Lee to Chew Keen: The Story of a Pioneer Chinese Family in North Cariboo (Friesen Press $17.49), by relative Liping Wong Yip. The couple settled in Quesnel where Wah Lee became known as Chew Lai Keen, and the couple had six children. [Tzu-I Chung reviews this book in The Ormsby Review.] 9781460294307

About this image

Michael G. Varga

Co-authored by Roxanne Davies

BC BookWorld • Spring 2019
Almost every day we receive another self-published title worthy of attention. Here is a selection of just ten titles.

I;

It is almost a ghost town now, but from 1908—1980 Ocean Falls was one of the largest communities and industrial facilities on B.C.’s coast. A company town dedicated to pulp and paper production for 60 different types of paper, it began to die when the mill shut in 1980. Ocean Falls: After the Whistle ($40) covers the recollections of R. Brian McDaniel, one of the town’s inhabitants from 1953 to 1968. Although Ocean Falls was only reachable by boat or floatplane, it was once home to 70,000 mostly prosperous people. Its swimming pool fostered several world champions. Citizens included a longshoreman who was the first cousin to a Pope, as well as a young Dick Pound, later president of the World Anti-Doping Agency for sports. McDaniel reveals why people who lived in one of the wettest places on earth with wooden roads, no cars, no TV, and no computers generally loved it.

A little-known fact is that the largest shipwreck disaster along the Pacific Northwest Coast was the sinking of the SS Princess Sophia on October 25, 1918. The tragedy occurred when the First World War ended so the sinking got less press attention than it might otherwise have received. There were no survivors and the stories of an estimated 367 people on board are lost. What happened during their final hours will remain a mystery. SS Princess Sophia, Those Who Perished: The Unknown Story of the Largest Shipwreck Disaster along the Pacific Northwest Coast of North America (Maritime Museum $19.95), authored by Judy Thompson and David Leverton, is a resource guide to an exhibit about the SS Princess Sophia at the Maritime Museum of B.C., where Leverton worked as executive director and Thompson as a volunteer. The last message from the SS Princess Sophia is stark and tragic: “Alright but for God’s sake hurry, water coming in room.”

For his twelfth book, Kevin Annett, the tireless but bizarrely unsuccessful campaigner for justice on behalf of Indigenous victims of church-run residential schools, has recalled his formative friendships with four men whose lives might otherwise be unaccounted for in Fallen: The Story of the Vancouver Four (www.kevinannett.com $15). The quartet who lived on Vancover’s Downtown Eastside have all perished were who might otherwise be unaccounted for in Fallen: The Story of the Vancouver Four (www.kevinannett.com $15). The quartet who lived on Vancover’s Downtown Eastside have all perished were

If you’re a long-time Lower Mainland resident, be prepared to get sentimental. Revolving W and Flying Pigs: A Neon Journal of Vancouver Vintage Cafes and Theatres (Bone Yard Ink Books $50) by Keith McKellar is a stunning pictorial homage to Vancouver’s vintage cafes and theatres, many now gone. McKellar’s drawings bring alive such venues as the Smil’s & Buddies Cabaret (where Jimi Hendrix once played, as well as D.O.A.), the still-operating Ovaltine Cafe with its 1948 swooping arrow neon sign, Helen’s Chidlen’s Wear in Burnaby with the skirt-bearing girl on a swing sign, and of course the revolving “W” at the Woodward’s department store. This gem is well worth seeking out. Simply superb. But largely overlooked because it’s self-published.

A Robot Called Zip ($18.95) is the illustrated story of Zip, a newly-built and curious robot and his first foray into the world. Written and illustrated by Vancouver-based physician/therapist, Harminder Toor, the book teaches children to look after their health through posture, activity, proper diet and rest. A Robot Called Zip ($18.95)

The late humorist and CBC Radio personality Arthur Black has priced Throw Mama from the Boat and Other Ferry Tales (Rolling West $19.95) by PJ Reece for being funny and weird—but the writing is also sophisticated and sly. Others simply describe this collection of thirteen short stories as whimsical. The author says his initial aim is to run with the absurd and that by staying on this track, “soon it develops its own reality.”

Meanwhile retired Province editorial page columnist Jon Ferry has graduated from the fray of daily journalism and published two books of poetry in the last two years: Dark Wood (Prominence $20.89) and Charred Horses (Prominence $21.06).

From Star Trek to Ripper

Successful Canadian director and actor, Alan Scarfe (below right), who has twice portrayed Romulans in Star Trek, The Next Generation, spent three years writing The Revelation of Jack the Ripper (Smart House Books $22.95) in between television and film jobs. The suggestion for the book came from his wife and fellow-actor Barbara March. It’s a first-person fictionalized account of a British psychologist named Lyttelton Forbes Winslow. The story helped Scarfe explore, in his words, “how the stark contrast between the poverty in the East End of London and the opulence of the West End had almost necessitated this most famous of all serial killers.” Scarfe has an impressive range of titles published in Europe but little recognition in his home province. He lives in Magna Bay, on Shuswap Lake.

978-0-96897-181-9
The Repairman
by Howard White

Fall is here, it can’t be denied
The pounding rains arouse in me a shapeless menace
As I picture the leaf-clogged eavestroughs, the skimpy woodpile
And the things I discovered wrong with the boat
On our last trip of the summer
The mysterious electrical leak that flatted the battery
The equally mysterious accumulation of water
Along one side of the bilge only
Not to mention several things I have known about for years
Like the deteriorating floor. This is just the boat.
Elsewhere my life seems equally unready for winter
And I fret about it, wondering what to do—
Call in help? What kind of help and where do you go?
We are not a family that called the repairman
My father always fixed the electric stove himself
Sometimes showering us with sparks
And leaving it with one burner feeble
But mostly leaving things on his job list unreached
This is the approach I inherit and many hundreds of hours
Have I worried and wondered about that roof leak
Which I patched and re-patched to no effect
Until finally I broke down and got a roofer to look at
He found the problem in about three minutes
Laughed at my befuddlement, sticking his fat pencil
Down the hole for emphasis, didn’t charge for the callout
But told me I needed a new roof anyway, for about $10,000
Now here is my dilemma: do I call in the repairman
For everything? My out-of-control waistline?
My aching joints? My poor family relations?
My overloaded in-basket? My faulty memory?
There are no doubt repairmen for all these malfunctions
Listed in the online yellow pages awaiting my call
Where do you draw the line between
Trying to manage things yourself
And turning your life entirely over to qualified professionals?
I pick up my dad’s old screwdriver and move
Toward the electric range, which has been
Making a mysterious humming noise

From A Mysterious Humming Noise
(Anvil Press $18) by Howard White,
whose poems concern common and ev- eryday realities such as sinking docks,
driving bulldozers, arguing about sand,
baseball, pouring without a funnel, danc- ing in the street, thought guns, coition,
brain farts, not sending sympathy cards,
not shooting your father, and sea otters. White also writes about
writing. 978-1-77214-141-2

Opening the Cabin
by Kate Braid

I.
We have come to the cabin after weeks
in the smoke of city living, climb out of the car,
crisp with caution. Peering suspiciously up at the sunshine
we sniff the honey of cedar and pine.
Small trickles of ease as we open windows, sweep.
It is in moving that our bodies come to know
where we are.
The neighbour waves and our faces light.

II.
We lie on the bed, reading. You, British history and I,
the collected poems of Jane Kenyon.
Fire crackles and pings in the stove
while rain chimes over our heads.
It’s noon and we’ve been lying like this,
reading the odd passage to each other, content,
lost in our books most of the morning.

Now your breathing deepens, the book slips and
you sleep.
Across the room, green cedar sways lightly
through the big windows. Rain freshens. A blue jay
squawks.
You snore a little. The poet might say,
I was overcome with a fierceness of joy,
I touch your side, feeling only wonder.
The fire snaps and sings.
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I think it’s about time I expressed some gratitude for everything the BC BookWorld crew has done for New Orphic Publishing—such as Literary Landmark #123, archiving the new Orphic Review on the new Ormsby Review site, the wonderful author spreads in your ABCBookWorld reference pages and the exposure you have given us in BC BookWorld. You have kept me from becoming little more than a cranky eccentric whose delusions alone keep him going. Right now, I’m preparing The Ventriloquist’s Dummy Tells All: A Politically Incorrect Novel for publication in Spring, 2019. 

Ernest Hekkken

BC BookWorld has performed a priceless service over the years, for the full range of BC writers. Three prolific decades—that’s amazing. A labour of hercine proportions. Well done! I have enjoyed reading most issues as they became available at local libraries, and still have a little treasure of back issues.

Neil Jeffrey

Coquitlam

BC BookWorld is dazing in its breadth and depth. When a new edition arrives at the library it is time for celebration. I’m from Tr’elxweyqe tribe territory, near Cultus Lake, over the Vedder mountain from Abbotsford, but if one is travelling by road, through time, it’s half-an-hour from Chilliwack. I have problems with this statement: “Esi Edugyan of Victoria has rocketed into Margaret Atwood and Munro territory with just her third novel.” To use Alice Munro and Margaret Atwood places Esi Edugyan in a women’s category, not an author’s. You should have used Alice Munro and M. G. Vassanji as they were both twice winners of the Giller.

Dianne Rose

Cultus Lake

The issue was printed before we knew Esi Edugyan had won her second Giller.—Ed.

I just received BC BookWorld in the mail. Wow. Wasn’t surprised to see a good blurb about me and my book on MS prominent on page 5, no less. I was further impressed with your involvement with Luhombero in Africa. Kudos to you. As funds allow, I will fire a little dough that way but definitely have them in my prayers already. Again, thanks for the good word.

Mona Houle

Victoria

Thank you for bringing attention to “for Unity” in the Who’s Who section. I must read—little gems I might not otherwise have found. I was surprised to reach the end and see “U is for Unity” in the Who’s Section. Thank you for bringing attention to my novel in this delightful way. It makes me smile.

Shelley Hrditschka

North Vancouver

We’d like to address some errors in the book, and couldn’t let another moment pass without a “Wow!” and a sincere thank you. Your article about Fifteen Point Nine is on point, so to speak, and entirely exceptional. Thanks for promoting and informing, and helping the book find its way into the hands and hearts of the kids who really need it.

Holly Dobbie

Langley

Just received my copy of BC BookWorld in the mail, and couldn’t let another moment pass without a “Wow!” and a sincere thank you. Your article about Fifteen Point Nine is on point, so to speak, and entirely exceptional. Thanks for promoting and informing, and helping the book find its way into the hands and hearts of the kids who really need it.

Holly Dobbie, author of Fifteen Point Nine (DCB Book, 2018)

Correction

We’d like to address some errors contained in Build it and They Will Chum (BC BookWorld winter issue). The founder of the Mudgirls Collective, who also wrote the introduction of the book under review, is Jen Gabby.

Also, as stated in the book, the object of our workshops is not to provide “free labour” for clients, and participants do not pay the Mudgirls for learning—rather the landowner pays us for our facilitation work, and participants pay for food.

Further, and more glaringly, our workshops do not cost $500—this is mis-quoted from page 90 of our book Mudgirls Manifesto, where we very clearly take issue with those natural building workshops that charge participants “upwards of $500 per week” to come work their butts off to build someone a house.

These details mean a lot to us. They are fundamental to our history and philosophy, and we would appreciate it if you could publish a correction, or this letter. Thank you for your care, your time and your attention. Peace!

The Mudgirls Natural Building Collective

British Columbia

Send letters or emails to: BC BookWorld, 926 West 15th Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 1R9

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Letters may be edited for clarity & length.

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