

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO BOOKS & AUTHORS

# BC BOOKWORLD

VOL. 34 • NO. 2 • Summer 2020

# Cast Out of The Garden

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memoir of life in  
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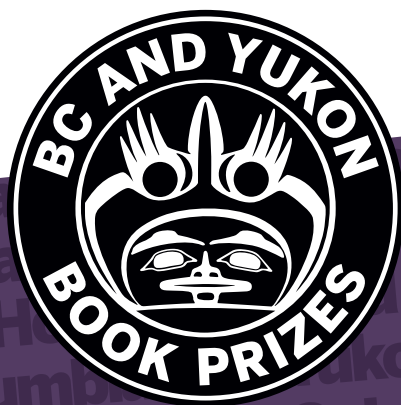


Elizabeth Yakeleya

**PANDEMIC**

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# Congratulations

to the finalists of the 2020 BC and Yukon Book Prizes!

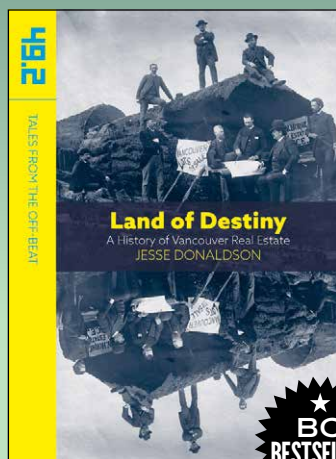


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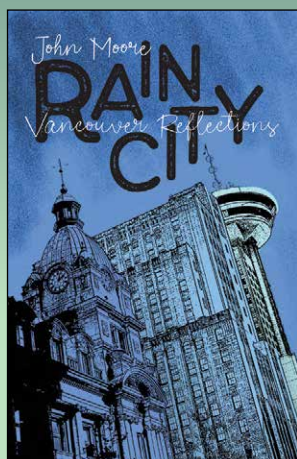
# NEW FROM ANVIL PRESS



## LAND OF DESTINY A HISTORY OF VANCOUVER REAL ESTATE by Jesse Donaldson

Ever since Europeans first laid claim to the Squamish Nation territory in the 1870s, the real estate industry has held the region in its grip. *Land of Destiny* explores that influence, starting in 1862, with the first sale of land in the West End, and continuing up until the housing crisis of today. It exposes the back-room dealings, the skullduggery and nepotism, the racism and the obscene profits, while at the same time revealing that the same forces which made Vancouver what it is — speculation and global capital — are the same ones that shape it today.

978-1-77214-144-3 • 200 PAGES • \$20  
HISTORY/CULTURAL STUDIES

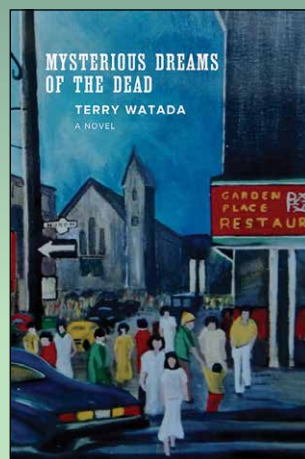


## RAIN CITY VANCOUVER REFLECTIONS by John Moore

Whether he's talking about Vancouver's Coast Mountain skyline or a seedy waterfront tattoo parlor; private downtown booze-cans of the city's business elite, or the Faux Chateau enclave of Whistler; pipe bomb attacks in the city, the Halcion days of Prozac and Serax or the 'progress' of urban development, John Moore is consistently "that a-hole who's always sticking his nose into other peoples' business."

978-1-77214-139-9 • 256 PAGES • \$20  
ESSAYS/MEMOIR

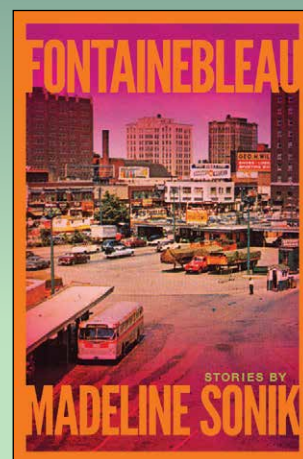
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## MYSTERIOUS DREAMS OF THE DEAD by Terry Watada

*Mysterious Dreams of the Dead* is an imaginative examination of the effects of exile, internment, and dispersal on the third-generation of Japanese Canadians (the "Sansei"). Mike Shintani is on a spiritual search for his father who died in a plane crash north of Lake Superior.

978-1-77214-150-4 • 320 PAGES • \$24  
FICTION • APRIL



## FONTAINEBLEAU by Madeline Sonik

"A darkly engrossing and artfully composed sequence of stories from a contemporary master of the form — Sonik's fearsome prose shines sublime light on the plain-sight secrets of modern life."  
— Lee Henderson, author of *The Man Game* and *The Road Narrows as You Go*

978-1-77214-148-1 • 224 PAGES • \$20  
STORIES • MARCH

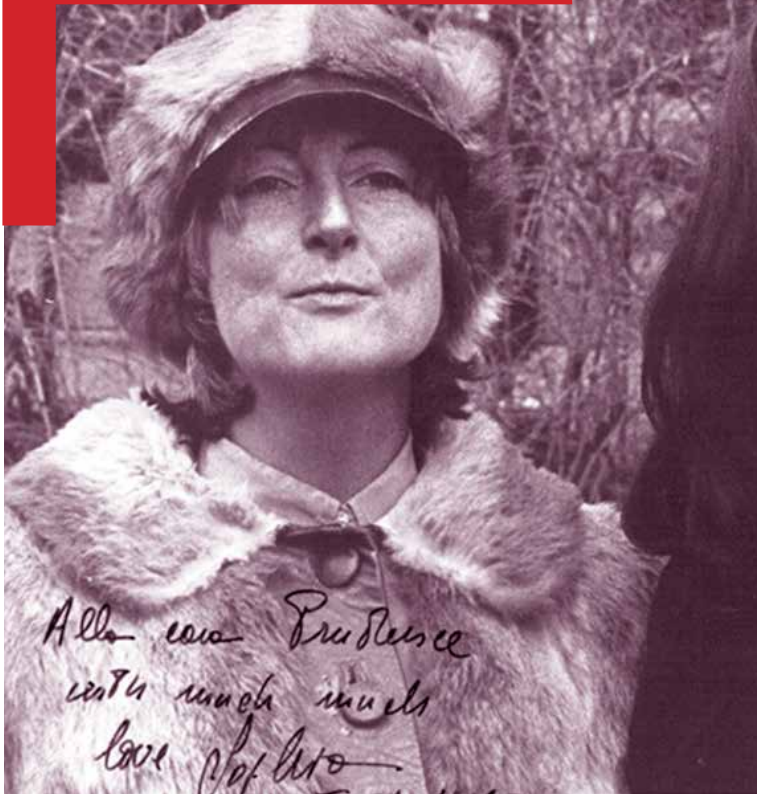
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# PEOPLE



## IT'S WHO YOU KNOW

**B**orn in Nanaimo in 1936, **Prudence Emery** of Victoria has published her mostly show-biz memoirs in **Nanaimo Girl** (Cormorant \$24.95). After working for five years as a press secretary for the Savoy Hotel in London—and getting a kiss from Paul McCartney—she became a Hollywood publicist working with the likes of Jodie Foster, Beau Bridges, Rob Lowe, and Raymond Burr. She has 80 credits as a unit publicist on IMDb.

Prudence Emery graduated from Crofton House Private School in Vancouver in 1954 and attended UBC for two years before taking a secretarial job at the naval base in Esquimalt. She earned enough to attend the Chelsea School of Art in London, England in 1957. She returned to Canada in 1962 at age 25 and taught handicrafts to veterans at Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver for a summer, then took a year of teacher's training in Victoria before heading to Toronto where she worked as a scab proof reader during a strike at *The Globe and Mail* from 1965-1966.

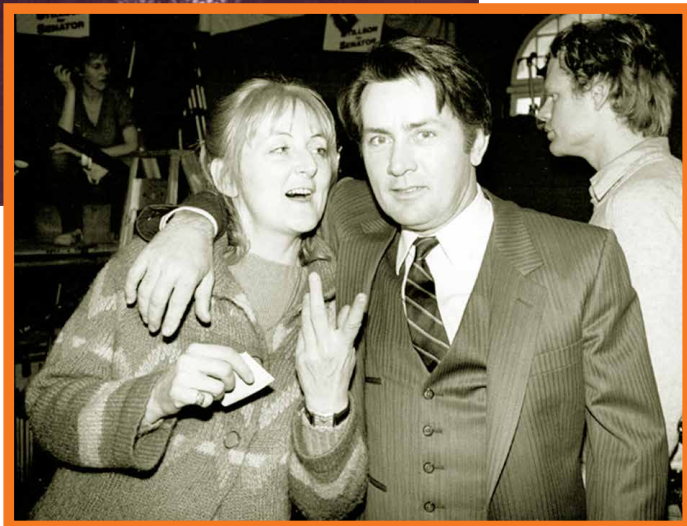
Her breakthrough as a publicist occurred at Expo 67 in Montreal where she oversaw tours for travel writers and celebrities including Liberace, Twiggy, Hugh Hefner and Edward Albee. In 1968, she returned to London for a month's visit and was offered a job as Press and Public Relations Officer at the Savoy Hotel, where she spent five years. There she crossed paths with celebrities and politicians such as Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Petula Clark, Louis Armstrong, Sir Laurence Olivier, Marlene Dietrich, Liza Minnelli and Ginger Rogers.

Emery returned to Toronto in 1973 and began working as a publicist for more than 100 film productions, travelling the globe and meeting actors such as Sophia Loren, Julianne Moore, Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck, Viggo Mortensen, Jennifer



SHIN SUGINO PHOTOS

Left: **Prudence Emery on the Montreal set of *Angela* (1977), her first film with Sophia Loren.** Below right: **Prudence Emery with Michael Douglas on the set of *Running* (1979).** Below centre: **Prudence Emery with Martin Sheen on location in Niagara-on-the Lake for David Cronenberg's *The Dead Zone* (1983), adapted from the Stephen King novel.**



Aniston, Jennifer Lopez, Robert Redford and Jeremy Irons. She has worked on ten films directed by David Cronenberg. In 2014, at age 78, she wrote and produced the short comedy *Hattie's Heist*.

In *Nanaimo Girl*, Emery provides anecdotes about many of the people she liked, such as Sophia Loren, Peter O'Toole, Angie Dickinson, Robin Williams, David Cronenberg and Nicolas Cage. She also highlights a few people who were not so fond of her, such as Bette Midler and Sharon Stone.

In the field of literature, Emery's long-time friendship with Krystyne and Scott Griffin is noteworthy, leading to her involvement with the launch of the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2001.

978-1-77086-527-3

## Going north memoir

**D**oug MacLeod has published his memoir, **On The Edge of Wilderness: Tales From Hazelton and the Kispiox Valley** (\$15.70) about leaving Vancouver in 1976 with his wife (both young teachers) to work in Hazelton. The MacLeods built their dream log home in the nearby Kispiox Valley, bought horses and enjoyed the rhythm of the seasons. Local ranchers taught the greenhorns how to (safely) fell trees, keep lambs alive, and what rules to ignore. MacLeod's sense of awe, adventure and humility comes through in the writing. He eventually faced hearing loss and trained to teach deaf and hard of hearing students. The MacLeods left the North in 1987. He and his wife Mariette now live in North Vancouver where MacLeod is active in the North Shore Writers' Association and the Gulf Yacht Club, splitting time between his passion for sailing and writing. — *Mark Forsythe*

978-1-092844321

## BUZZ WORDS

When his sister gave him 15,000 bees as a Christmas present, **Dave Doroghy** developed a fascination for the insects. After many mishaps—like getting stung multiple times, losing bees to wasps and mites, even losing the queen bee twice—he continues to raise bees and blogs about it at houseboathoney.com. Now, he has published **Show Me the Honey: Adventures of an Accidental Apiarist** (Touch-Wood \$25). Doroghy lives on a houseboat outside of Vancouver. 978-1-771-5132-2-7

## LOVE HISTORY

Tracing his dating history in Vancouver to find the love of his life, **Kevin Spent** simultaneously probes historical England's love sonnet in his new collection of poems, **Hearts Amok** (Anvil Press \$18). Journeying from the Middle Ages to contemporary times, Spent intermixes hobo slang with the diction of an ancient troubadour to describe the caprices, woes, and triumphs of the human heart.

978-1-77214-149-8



Darci Bysouth

## LOSING IT

**Darci Bysouth's** characters in **Lost Boys** (This-tledown \$20) face losing what they hold most dear in a world crumbling around them. This debut collection of 18 tales includes *Hold* about a grieving widow who thinks she has found a glimpse of hope in the dark waters of a childhood lake; *Sacrifice* in which a violent incident reveals the treachery within a lonely woman's relationships; and *The Heartbreaks* about a teenage girl whose naive pride in a brother is ruined when a road trip to a rock concert goes awry.

978-1-77187-175-4

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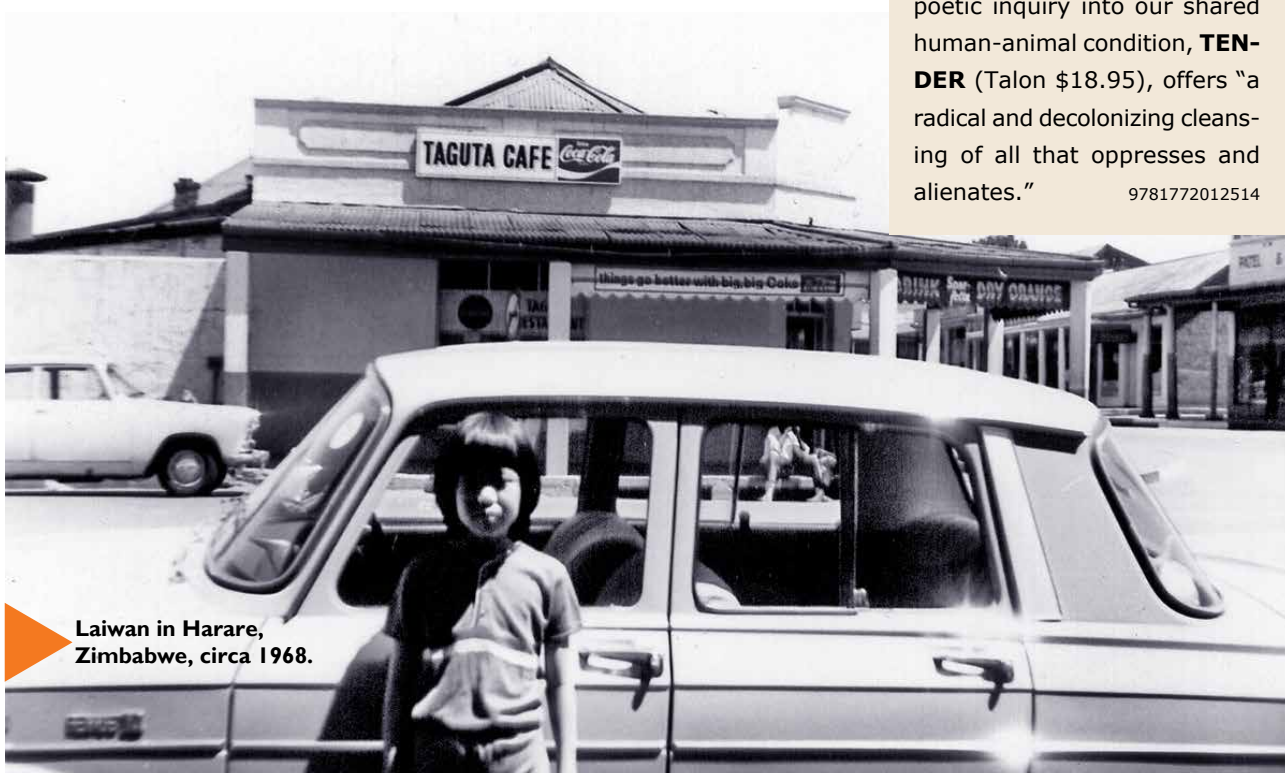


# PEOPLE



## The seeds of time

**Dan Jason**, known for popularizing beans as an important North American diet choice has written a new guide, **Saving Seeds: A Home Gardener's Guide to Preserving Plant Biodiversity** (Harbour \$14.95). It promotes the household production of seeds as a way to regain power over biodiversity from big industrial companies that have replaced heirloom varieties with genetic engineering and expensive trademarks. This corporate attack on biodiversity can be challenged by returning to the centuries-old tradition of farmers and communities saving seed stocks. Over half of Canadian households grow fruits, herbs, vegetables or flowers for personal use according to Stats Can. Each of these home gardens has the potential to become seed savers. But they have to let some of the plants go to seed, and harvest and preserve them. *Saving Seeds* is a call to help ensure a more secure future for seeds and our food security. Jason lives on Salt Spring Island where he founded a mail-order seed company. He has written many popular books including *The Power of Pulses* (D&M, 2016). 978-1-55017-900-2



Laiwan in Harare, Zimbabwe, circa 1968.

## The human-animal condition

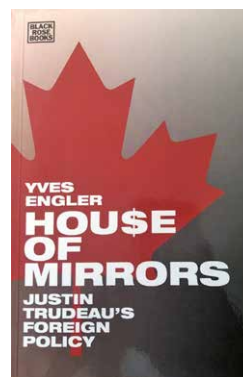
Vancouver-based author **Laiwan** is described as reticent and modest, "shying away from the spectacular." Raised in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and taught by German nuns, she immigrated to Vancouver with her family and attended Britannia Secondary School where "she stumbled into poetry" and became interested in printing. After studying at Emily Carr College of Art & Design and being influenced by local musicians, she gained an M.F.A. from SFU and founded the OR Gallery in 1983. She was Chair of the Grunt Gallery's board from 2010 to 2014. Laiwan's debut collection of poetic inquiry into our shared human-animal condition, **TENDER** (Talon \$18.95), offers "a radical and decolonizing cleansing of all that oppresses and alienates." 9781772012514

## Accidents will happen

When Canadian foreign policy critic **Yves Engler's** new book, **House of Mirrors: Justin Trudeau's Foreign Policy** (Black Rose Books \$21.95) came back from the printers, he was shocked to find that the book jacket cover art had been altered. The graphic caricature



Yves Engler's original book jacket (above); altered cover (below).



of Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** as Uncle Sam had been removed, leaving a politically 'sanitized' image. The printer immediately pulped the defective books but Engler kept some of them for future reference. He had initially wondered if darker forces, such as Liberal Party operatives or CSIS agents had a hand in the mysterious change. But the printer admitted to the mistake.

"I really don't know what happened," said Engler. "But I prefer to believe the printer's 'smart' computer couldn't reconcile the image with all of Trudeau's progressive sounding statements."

Although now living in Montreal, Engler was born and raised in Vancouver. 978-1-551647494

## Eden in our midst

The Fraser River is B.C.'s largest, most diverse waterway. Between Hope and Mission is a meandering section that is some of the river's most productive—called the "Heart of the Fraser"—and it's under threat. Director of BCIT Rivers Institute, **Ken Ashley** has edited a book of essays, **The Heart of the Fraser River** (fernandolessa.ca \$33.50) with photography by **Fernando Lessa**, about the devastating impact of a century of development. Included is Canadian river conservationist, **Mark Angelo's** story of first coming upon this area while on a summer paddling expedition.

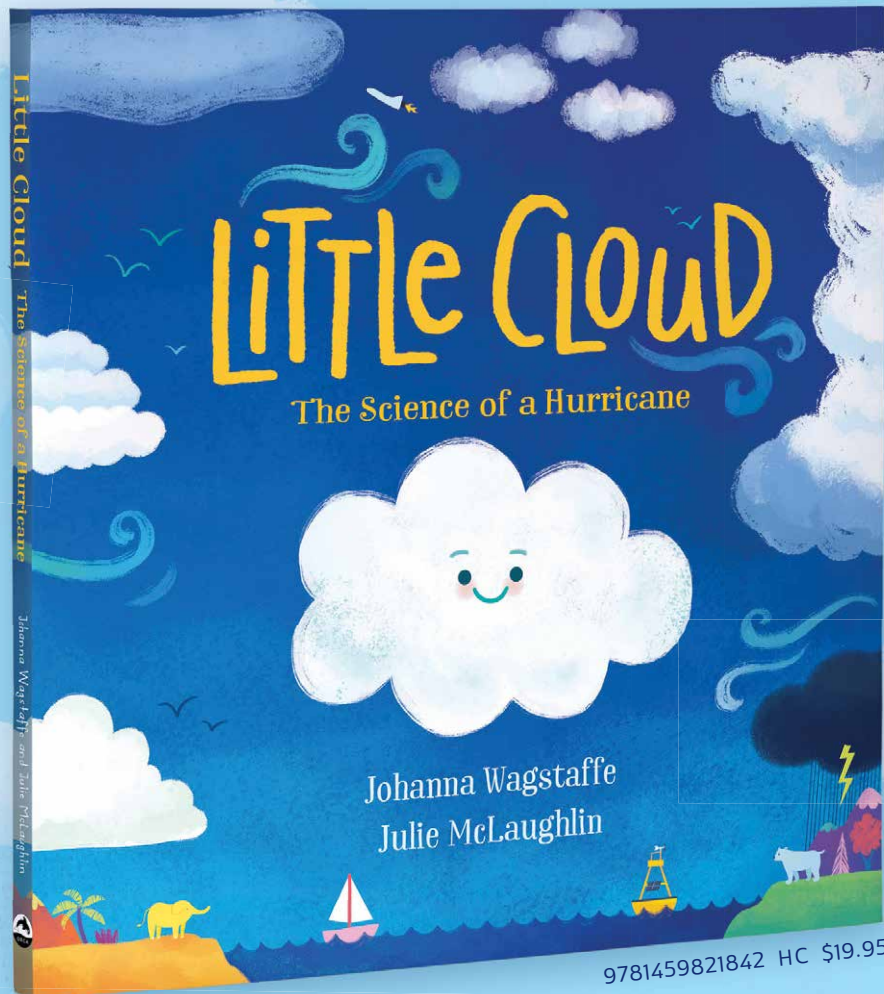


Ken Ashley

"I was unexpectedly taken aback by the sheer beauty and obvious productivity of this lower part of the river," Angelo writes. "I found myself exploring narrow channels, lush back eddies, immense gravel bars, and numerous beautiful islands." He goes on to describe this area, only an hour's drive east of Metro Vancouver as "an Eden in our midst." 978-1-9990103-17



# A little cloud with big dreams.



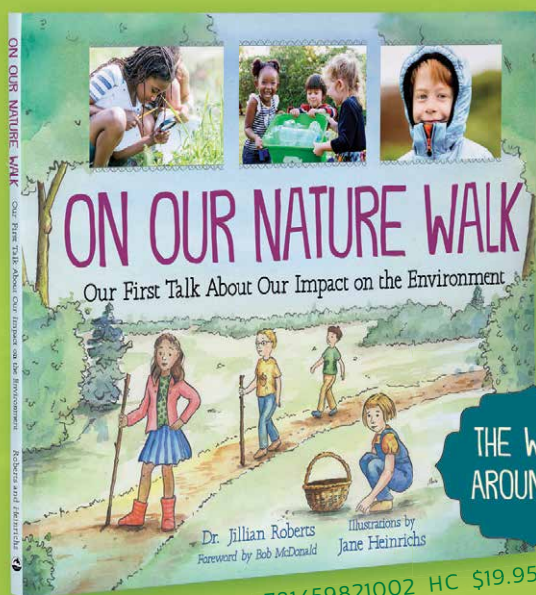
By CBC Vancouver  
meteorologist and  
science reporter,  
**Johanna Wagstaffe.**



“Rarely has severe weather been so sweetly packaged as in this story of Nate, a little cloud that becomes a hurricane.”

—**Booklist**

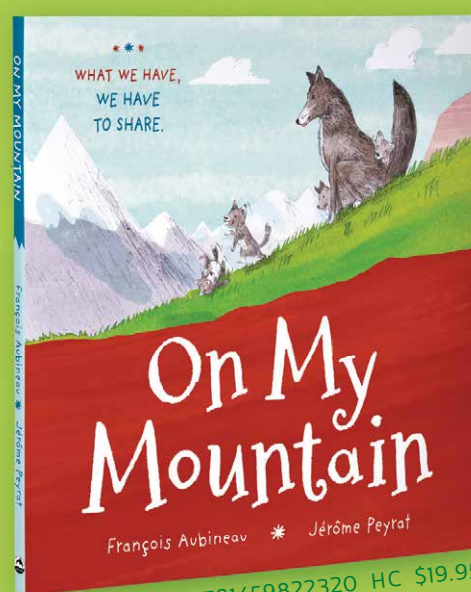
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9781459821002 HC \$19.95

“The text is informative and manages to treat weighty issues seriously without being too scary.”

—**Booklist**



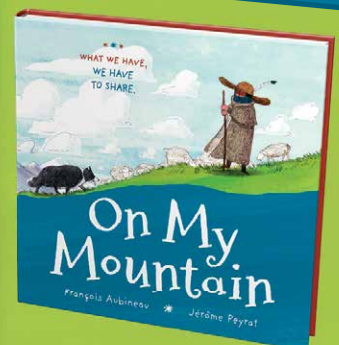
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“Truly a book for today and our changing future.”

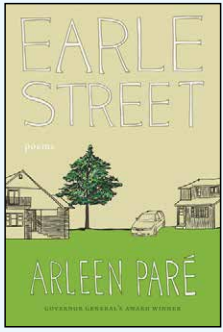
—**Kirkus Reviews**



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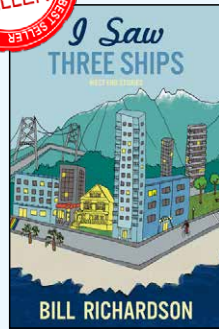




**Earle Street**  
Arleen Paré

A lyrical collection focussing on a specific street and on a particular tree growing there, *Earle Street*, by Governor General's Award winner Arleen Paré, takes the concept of street and urban living, the houses on the street, the neighbours, the boulevard trees and wildlife, and the street's history as a poetic focal point.

978-0-88922-250-7 • \$16.95 • 96 pages • Poetry  
Forthcoming April 15, 2020

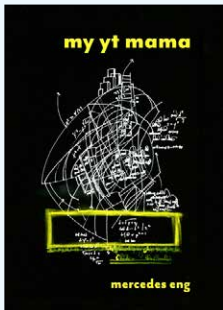


**I Saw Three Ships**  
West End Stories  
Bill Richardson

Eight linked stories, all set around Christmastime in Vancouver's West End neighbourhood, explore the seasonal tug-of-war between expectation and disappointment.

"Richardson has crafted a gift for all seasons here."  
—Tom Sandborn, *Vancouver Sun*

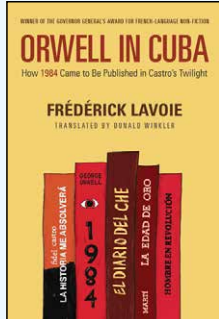
978-1-77201-233-0 • \$16.95 • 264 pages • Fiction / Short Stories  
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**my yt mama**  
mercedes eng

In the follow-up to her BC Book Prize-winning book of poetry, *Prison Industrial Complex Explodes*, Mercedes Eng continues her poetic investigation of racism and colonialism in Canada, weaponizing the language of the nation-state against itself in the service of social justice.

978-1-77201-255-2 • \$16.95 • 88 pages • Poetry  
Forthcoming March 15, 2020



**Orwell in Cuba**  
How 1984 Came to Be Published in Castro's Twilight  
Frédéric Lavoie

Translated by Donald Winkler

A personal account of today's Cuba at a pivotal point in its history, with the Castro brothers passing power on to a new generation. The book is akin to a detective story, as the author investigates how and why a state-run publishing house came to release a new translation of George Orwell's iconic anti-totalitarian novel *Nineteen-Eighty-Four*, formerly taboo.

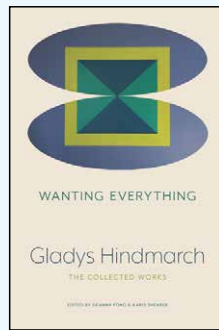
978-1-77201-245-3 • \$24.95 • 304 pages • Non-fiction  
Forthcoming May 6, 2020



**TENDER**  
Laiwan

*TENDER* is a unique book spanning three decades of critical inquiry into the queer and racialized experience in Canada, and Vancouver in particular. It is deeply personal and poetic but also defiantly political. Laiwan traverses diverse terrains which are rooted in her courageous and uncompromising history of activism and in experiences of building community across and beyond difference.

978-1-77201-251-4 • \$18.95 • 144 pages • Poetry  
Forthcoming April 15, 2020



**Wanting Everything**  
The Collected Works  
Gladys Hindmarch

Edited by Deanna Fong and Karis Shearer

*Wanting Everything* presents the collected works of Vancouver writer Gladys Hindmarch. In addition to reproducing newly revised editions of her book-length works the volume collects unpublished works of prose as well as correspondence, criticism, oral history interviews, and occasional writing.

978-1-77201-248-4 • \$29.95 • 496 pages • Fiction  
Forthcoming March 15, 2020



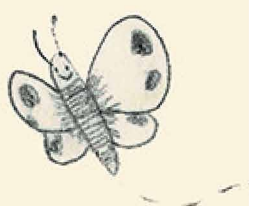
"An impressive feat." – Starred review, Kirkus Reviews

**When Emily Was Small**



Lauren Soloy

Inspired by the writing of internationally renowned BC artist Emily Carr, *When Emily Was Small* is a gorgeous celebration of freedom and the mysteries of nature.



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# Oh, Henry

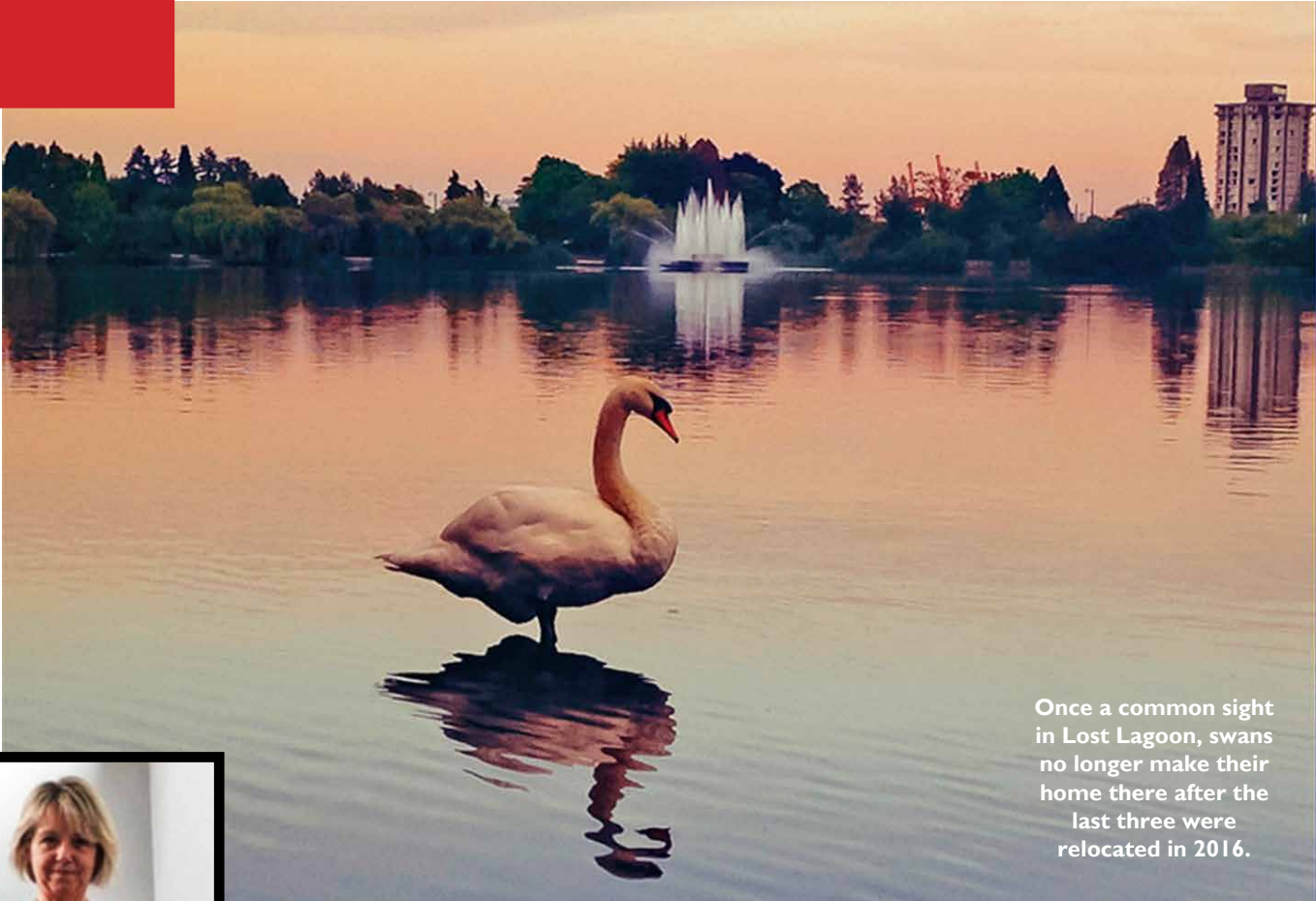
**S**he earned a high profile for her calm and empathetic broadcasts about COVID-19 in B.C. Then she sparked a flurry of Fluevog shoe-buying when the Vancouver shoe designer, **John Fluevog** launched a limited edition shoe called ‘The Dr. Henry’ inspired by her predilection for wearing his brand. Now you can buy a paperback version of provincial health officer, **Dr. Bonnie Henry’s** guide to fighting viruses and other diseases, **Soap and Water & Common Sense: The Definitive Guide to Viruses, Bacteria, Parasites, and Disease** (Anansi \$18.95). First published as a hard cover in 2012, it was updated this year with a new introduction on protection against the novel coronavirus that has caused a pandemic.

Dr. Henry’s three simple rules have struck a chord: wash your hands, cover your mouth when you cough, and stay at home when you have a fever. It was lucky timing for B.C. when they gave Dr. Henry the provincial health officer position, the first woman to fill that role, in 2018 as she is an expert in epidemiology having spent the better part of the last three decades fighting viruses such as Ebola, polio, SARS and the H1N1 flu bug.

978-1487008673



Best foot forward: Dr. Bonnie Henry



Once a common sight in Lost Lagoon, swans no longer make their home there after the last three were relocated in 2016.

## Laments for Lost Lagoon

**H**aving visited Vancouver’s iconic Lost Lagoon for decades, **Betsy Warland** finally came to live near it, which drastically changed her relationship to this much-managed natural landmark and inspired a prose poem, **Lost Lagoon/lost in thought** (Caitlin \$20). Speaking through an individual she calls ‘The Human,’ Warland engages in a deep meditation on our role within the natural world through the microcosm of Lost Lagoon’s flora and fauna. She befriends swans, crows and beavers; notices ivy and trees such as the dawn redwood that sheds its needles every year; and gives other Lost Lagoon frequenters names like ‘Swan Lady’ and ‘Beaver Lady.’ She mourns the loss of bird diversity; the losing fight between beaver that made the lagoon their home for generations, and the park authorities; and a swan, wings clipped so it couldn’t escape, that was eaten by otters. Warland comments on the cycle of life, philosophers like **Henry David Thoreau**, other poets, Google, *The New York Times Magazine*, and TV. She wonders, “While The Human has written this tale, has elation for Lost Lagoon become elegy?” 978-1-7738-602-5-1



## Bruce Kirkby by sea, rail, & foot

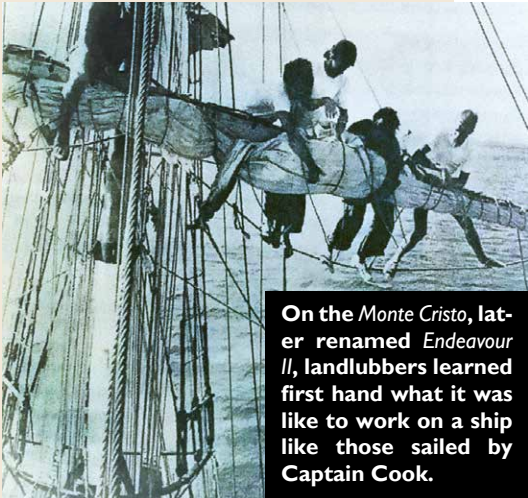
A moment of clarity led travel writer **Bruce Kirkby** to jump a freighter with his wife, **Christine** and their two young sons, and head for the Himalayan Mountains. With seven-year-old **Bodi** and three-year-old **Taj** in tow, they went by sea, rail and foot. Their destination was a thousand-year-old Buddhist monastery in the Zanskar valley, one of the last places where Tibetan Buddhism is still practiced freely in its original setting. Kirkby shares their story in his upcoming book due in August, **In Blue Sky Kingdom: An Epic Family Journey to the Heart of the Himalaya** (D&M \$34.95). Kirkby is the author of two previous books and regularly writes for *The Globe and Mail*, as well as contributing to the *New York Times*, *Outside Magazine*, and *Canadian Geographic*. He has won several National Magazine Awards. Kirkby makes his home in Kimberley.

978-1-77162-269-1

## North Van to the Tasman Sea

**I**n the 1960s, a group of men built a three-masted, tall sailing ship in North Vancouver. The construction was expensive, with a hull of mahogany planking on heavy fir frames with spars of Sitka spruce. The story of how the ship, first named *Monte Cristo* and later *Endeavour II*, sailed down the western United States and later across the Pacific Ocean to Australia for a bicentenary reenactment of Captain **James Cook’s** landing at Botany Bay is told in the book, **In a Cloud of Sails: Monte Cristo/Endeavour II, Canada’s Forgotten Lady of the Sea** (Rutherford \$27.95), co-authored by **George Opacic** and **Ron M. Craig**. The original crew, mostly young men from the prairies who had helped build this reincarnation of centuries-old sailing ships, got as far as San Francisco before being replaced by a new skipper. The second crew successfully weathered storms and hurricanes to their destiny ‘Down Under,’ to be feted by **Queen Elizabeth II** on April 28, 1970. After the ship left Australia and set sail for New Zealand in what was to be its last voyage, it ran into bad weather in the Tasman Sea and was wrecked.

978-0-9951743-7-5



On the *Monte Cristo*, later renamed *Endeavour II*, landlubbers learned first hand what it was like to work on a ship like those sailed by Captain Cook.



**Liliane Leila Juma's** memoir of the family home she lost in the Congo is for young adult readers, old souls and anyone interested in recent African history.

**Maison Rouge: Memories of a Childhood in War** by Liliane Leila Juma  
(Tradewind Books \$12.95)

**F**or **Liliane Leila Juma**, growing up in the Congo, in Uvira, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, bordering Rwanda and Burundi, was at first idyllic.

Her family home, called Maison Rouge was surrounded by green mountains, palm trees and fruit trees (mango, pomegranate, date, fig, orange and lemon). Her well-to-do father worked with theatre and musical groups; her mother designed clothes and held women's meetings.

It was a lush and nurturing environment for the little Muslim girl. In Juma's memoir, **Maison Rouge: Memories of a Childhood in War**, she describes how her parents provided kitchen and bathroom facilities for those who were less fortunate.

Juma's father built special outbuildings for other people who didn't have a place to stay. "While we were much better off than our neighbours, my father taught me to appreciate our good fortune and be humble," said Juma.

"We came to this world empty-handed and will leave empty-handed," her father told her. "Only our good deeds will outlive us. That's what we will be remembered for."

There were dangers, of course. One day she was nearly killed by a hippopotamus while swimming. And there were restrictions. One day Juma's father saw her playing soccer with boys near the Catholic school she attended. "If an imam sees you, he would complain to me about giving my daughter too much freedom," he warned.

Juma assured him that she would be careful. "But being rebellious by nature, I didn't stop playing soccer with the boys." Her spirit was strong; her manners were sophisticated; her future was bright.

But those glory days were soon to end.



IN OCTOBER OF 1993, REFUGEES FROM Burundi were streaming into Juma's hometown, Uvira, and Maison Rouge became overcrowded with desperate, homeless people. "The tap water was



Liliane Leila Juma (right) at Maison Rouge, Uvira, Congo. Her parents (above). She now works as a women's support worker in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

# CAST OUT OF THE GARDEN

When armed conflict overtook **Liliane Leila Juma's** hometown, a friend said of her family's house: "Maison Rouge is a refugee camp now."

now reserved for drinking and for strict household necessities. There were so many people now living at our home, all the bathing and washing of dishes and clothes had to be done at the lake."

Six months later, Juma's father heard that the new president of Burundi and the president of Rwanda were killed when a plane they were flying in was shot down. At her Catholic school, the headmaster, Father Dunia told the classroom that the war which had started between Rwanda and Burundi could soon spill over into Uvira.

By age thirteen, Juma's idyllic life in Maison Rouge was buffeted by strife in



Burundi, the terrible genocide in Rwanda and civil war in Congo. A refugee, **Yayabo**, who sought help at Maison Rouge, became a traitor, bringing in rebel soldiers to stay overnight with her. “Eventually she and her daughter were asked to leave our compound,” Juma writes. “Later she would turn out to be the one who betrayed my father to the rebel soldiers who took him away and out of my life forever.”

Some nights, Juma couldn’t sleep in her own bed as refugee children crowded onto it. Their garden became an outdoor kitchen. One of Juma’s best friends remarked, “Maison Rouge is a refugee camp now. It’s not an elegant mansion anymore.”

Eventually, Juma’s family made the decision to become refugees themselves, eventually ending up in a United Nations refugee camp in Zambia. When the fighting temporarily died down, the family traveled back to the Maison Rouge.

Back at home, Juma was horrified and broken-hearted to see a former school friend, **Amani**, marching down the street with other crazed, boy soldiers, armed to the teeth. The military tactic of rape becomes a threat.

Bombs sporadically fell on Uvira. The United Nations delivered food. Other trucks were loaded with dead bodies. “The sun was no longer shining warm and clear. The air felt cold and smelled of blood.”

Maison Rouge is shelled and destroyed in a blaze of fire. Her mother goes looking for her husband. Juma gets her sisters and brother safely out of the rubble and they walk to a nearby village. The next day, bombs and bullets rain down on them as they walk south along Lake Tanganyika. Juma resorts to harvesting green mangos that taste like lemons to feed her siblings.

“Our people spent weeks fleeing from the war but the war kept following us,” Juma remembers. Eventually reunited with their mother, they are robbed, held hostage and brutalized until government soldiers rescue them and put them on a boat to Tanzania and a UNHCR refugee camp.

From there, they emigrated to Canada along with other French-speaking refugees from Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. Juma now works as a women’s support worker in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. This is her first book.

9781926890302

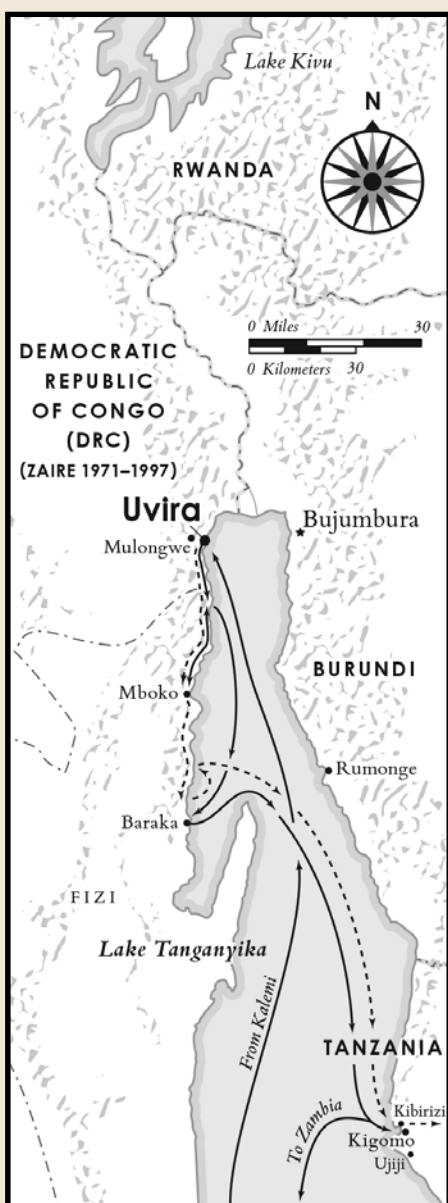
## An Overview of conflict in the Congo

**Excerpted introduction by Kambale Musavuli, spokesperson for Friends of the Congo, from *Maison Rouge: Memories of a Childhood in War*.**

**T**he Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has experienced the deadliest war in the world since World War Two. An estimated six million Congolese perished between 1996 and 2007 as a result of two Congo wars. Half of the victims of the war were children under the age of five. Women have also paid a terrible price with hundreds of thousands of women being raped as a war strategy. The conflict is a product of two invasions led primarily by Congo’s neighbours Rwanda and Uganda, first in 1996 and again in 1998. The initial rationale for the invasion was the pursuit of rebel militias who perpetrated the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, however, it quickly became evident that Congo’s neighbours were intent on plundering Congo of its riches.

Congo is endowed with precious and strategic minerals such as gold, diamonds, copper, tin, coltan and a host of other natural resources worth an estimated \$2.4 trillion. Congo’s riches have long attracted global corporations in pursuit of minerals that are vital to the technology, electronics, automobile, aerospace and military industries. Two key minerals that directly tie consumers to the Congo are coltan, which is needed for cell phones, and cobalt, which is vital to the functioning of electric modes of transport.

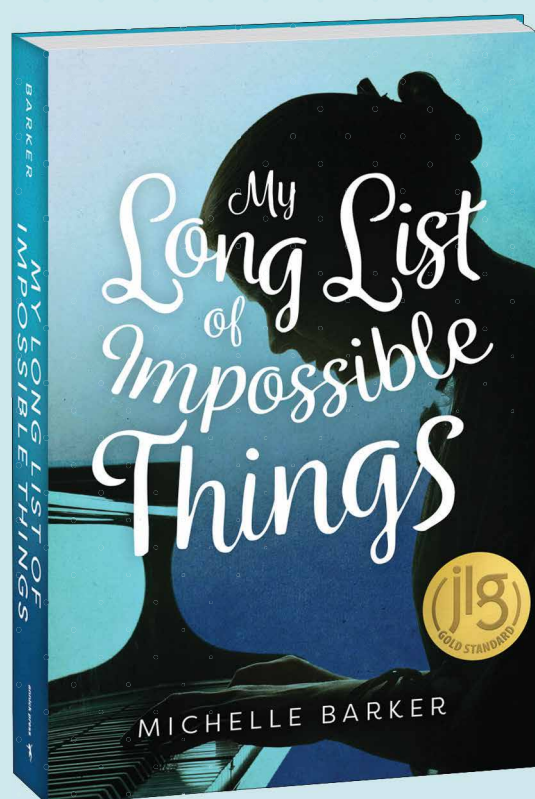
Congo is home to the largest United Nations peacekeeping force in the world with an estimated 18,000 peacekeepers. However, there are still several dozen militia groups operating in the east of the country rendering large swaths of eastern Congo unstable and insecure. Recent elections in the Congo held high expectations of stabilizing the country. In a country with a median age of 17 years old, Congolese youth are determined to take the lead in transforming their country from a conflict-ridden nation to one of peace, stability and prosperity.



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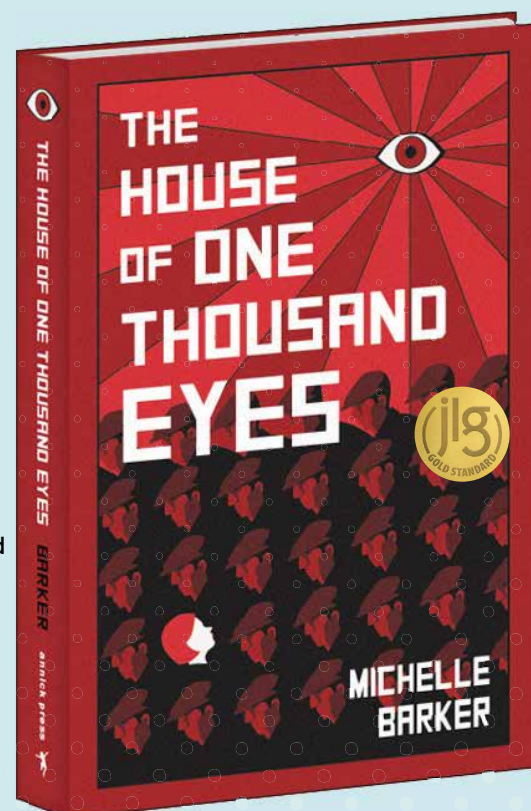
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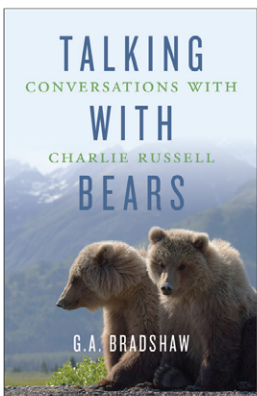
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An Instagram Guide for Animal Advocates  
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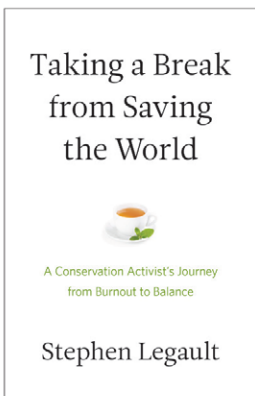
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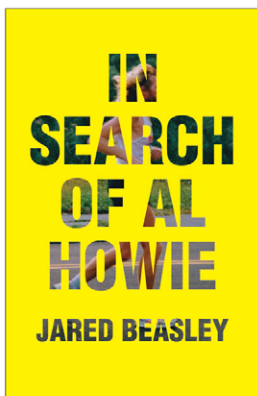
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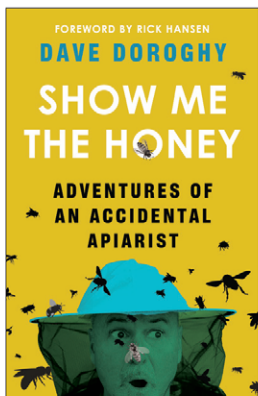
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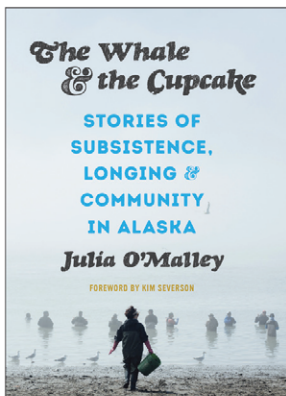
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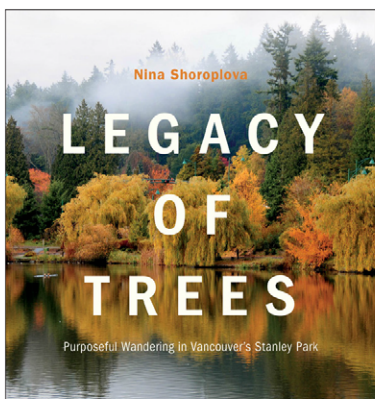
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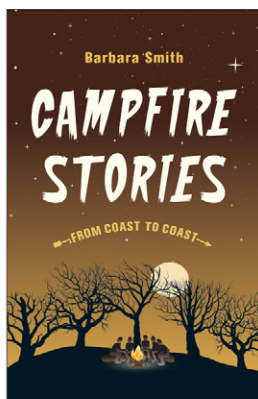
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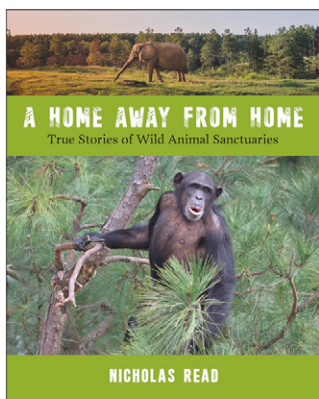
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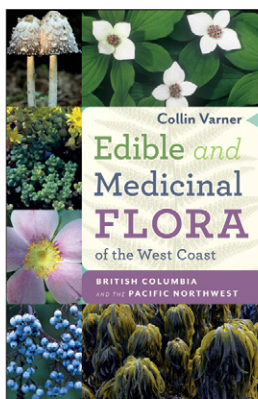
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The aptly named Hudson's Bay steamship *S.S. Distributor* unloading more than cargo in 1928.

CANADA'S  
OVERLOOKED

## PANDEMIC

**We Remember the Coming of the White Man: Dene Elders tell the history of their times**  
by Elizabeth Yakeleya & Sarah Simon et al, edited by Sarah Stewart  
(Durville Publications & UpRoute \$37.50)

For the Dene and Inuvialuit in the Northwest Territories (NWT) in 1928, “the white man introduced them to a new way to die” when an unknown infection was brought from the south, on a steamship, killing those with little immunity.

A mysterious virus—possibly the vestiges of the so-called Spanish Flu—was brought to the NWT on the steamship *S.S. Distributor* according to Dene filmmaker, **Raymond Yakeleya**, who interviewed a number of Sahtu and Gwich'in Dene elders for his 1978 film for CBC North, *We Remember*.

Those filmed interviews have been transcribed into English and in the Gwich'in Dene language for a new book, **We Remember the Coming of the White Man: Dene Elders tell the history of their times** by **Elizabeth Yakeleya** and **Sarah Simon** et al, and edited by **Sarah Stewart**.

[The First Nations of British Columbia have similar stories of being devastated by disease. Particularly hard hit were the Haida on what was then known as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Travel to Haida Gwaii is now severely restricted during the current, international pandemic.]



THE CHAPTERS OF *WE REMEMBER THE COMING of The White Man* are the transcripts of ten elders, including Raymond Yakeleya's grandmother Elizabeth, recalling major events in their lives. They tell of the early days of fur trad-

Ten years after the well-documented Spanish Flu in 1918, there was a much lesser-known scourge.

ing and missionaries; dismay about the way oil and uranium discoveries and pipelines were handled on their land; and a flu pandemic that ravaged their communities, eerily similar to today's COVID-19 pandemic.

In those days, the major form of transportation was the steamship and in the summer of 1928 the Hudson's Bay paddle steamer *SS Distributor* sailed its annual supply route down the Mackenzie River. At each stop, along with the delivery of supplies, a virus was unleashed.

For the Dene and Inuvialuit along the waterway who hadn't built up an immunity, the illness was new. Previously, their deaths were by old age, accidents, and violence but never the flu says Yakeleya.

With the spread of flu, “the white man introduced them to a new way to die,” Yakeleya recalls his uncle **Johnny Lennie** telling him.

“That's what (my) Uncle Johnny said. For that whole week as a young man, all he did was dig graves and all the young boys and men would do that as they were bringing more bodies to the graveyard.” Johnny Lennie was age 13 at the time of the deathly scourge.

When the illness arrived in Yake-

weren't expecting sickness. An old man had it first but we didn't realize the flu had started.”

Elizabeth Yakeleya says that they were just getting ready to leave one of their summer hunting camps when suddenly, “everyday people died.”

“The flu didn't last long, not even two weeks, but it wiped us out. Some people came here from Franklin to trade at the Hudson Bay here. On their way back home, some of them died too.”

Another elder from a different community, **Jim Sittichinli**, remembers, “It was almost a week after the boat left that people started to get sick. I think about 50 people died in Fort McPherson within a week. There was no doctor.

“Towards the end, people were dying too fast and only a few people were able to dig graves. It was during July and they had to bury them right away. You can't leave them out.

“We used to dig a grave for six people and we had to bury them without a coffin. We put two coffins, one at each end, and put the ones with no coffins in the middle and put lumber over them. We buried them that way.”

*We Remember the Coming of the White Man* contains 100 black and white photographs as well as a DVD of the 1978 film *We Remember*, remastered with the director's commentary.

As Raymond Yakeleya says in the foreword to the book, “Extra footage shot for the film has been lost, but the transcriptions of the Elders' words in this book remain a precious chronicle of their times.”

“No wonder NWT has closed its borders due to COVID,” says the book's publisher, **Lorene Shyba**.

978-1988824246



**Elizabeth Yakeleya (1906-1994); Raymond Yakeleya (at right)**

leya's home community of Tulita (formerly known as Fort Norman) 50 elders died in seven days. The disease seemed to hit the community slowly, then all at once as the illness multiplied.

Yakeleya's grandmother, Elizabeth recalls: “In 1928, after the steamboat left, we







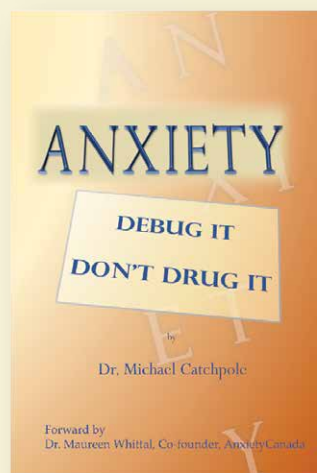
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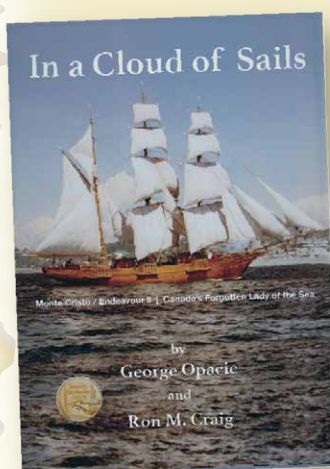
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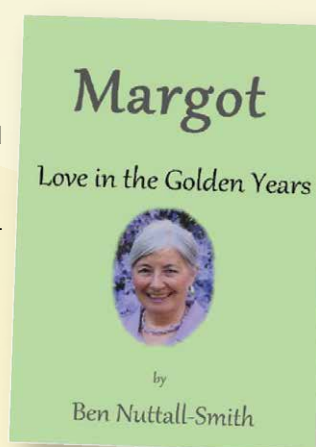
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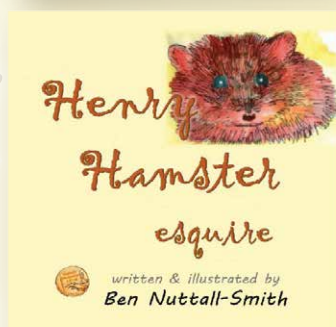


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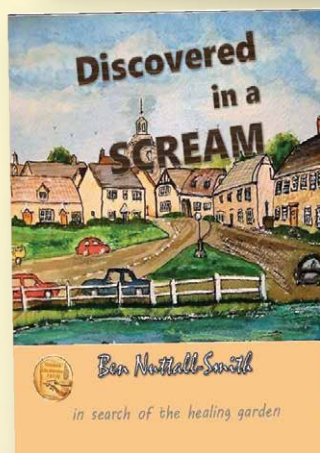
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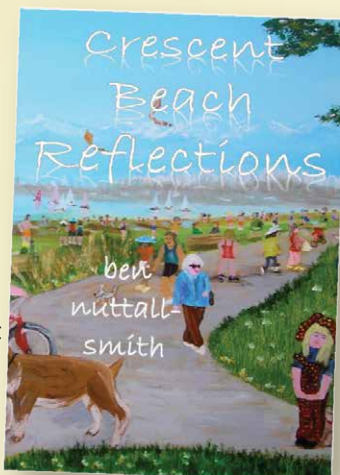
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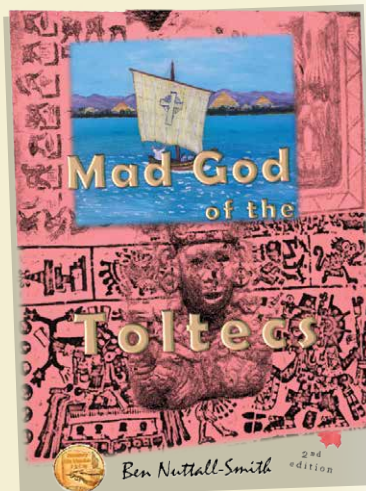
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# FILM

## A filmmaker's life on her own terms

**Taken by the Muse:**  
**On the Path to Becoming a Filmmaker**  
by Anne Wheeler (NeWest \$20.95)

**K**nown for her screen portrayals of ordinary people living extraordinary lives, T.V. and film director **Anne Wheeler** is now telling her own personal stories in the creative non-fiction collection, **Taken by the Muse: On the Path to Becoming a Filmmaker** (NeWest \$20.95) due out in October.

Beginning in the seventies, Wheeler describes breaking with tradition when she decides not to get married but rather travel around Africa instead. She follows up by trying to gain acceptance in a male-dominated film industry, finally finding passion and a sense of purpose telling stories of people, often women, who find ways to live their lives on their own terms.

Wheeler was born in Alberta and graduated with a university degree in mathematics while performing in theatre as a way to put herself through university. Her first films were documentaries but by the eighties she was making features such as *Loyalties*, *Cowboys Don't Cry*, and *Bye Bye Blues*. The latter is about a WWII married woman with children who joins a local dance band to provide for her family while her husband is away at war. The band becomes a successful recording and touring group. Then her husband returns and interrupts the woman's romantic involvement with one of the other band members.

By the nineties, Wheeler had moved to Salt Spring Island and was known for making Canadian classics that won national and international awards. Her film work has garnered seven honorary doctorates and an Order of Canada. Wheeler also became the first woman to win a lifetime achievement award from the Directors Guild of Canada

She now lives in White Rock and continues to write and direct and mentor film-makers in the art of storytelling.

978-1-77439-001-65



Luke Reilly and Rebecca Jenkins in Anne Wheeler's *Bye, Bye Blues* (1989).



**Every Little Scrap and Wonder:  
A Small-Town Childhood**  
by Carla Funk  
(Greystone \$29.95)

BY PORTIA PRIEGERT

**A**s its title suggests, **Every Little Scrap and Wonder: A Small-Town Childhood** gathers a goodly share of memory's odd rags and remnants, stitching them into a warm quilt that evokes a Mennonite childhood in Vanderhoof.

"Pluck one memory from the album and the story doesn't hold, won't bear up," **Carla Funk** writes. "The single part won't speak the whole. But honour the fragments, all those broken pieces, and see them find a true design, fitting to the patterns of a bigger story, no matter how small the town, the life, or the child."

**Growing up in Vanderhoof, Carla Funk learned to type by following lessons on a vinyl record.**

It's the first non-fiction book by Funk, who has published five collections of poetry, most recently 2016's *Gloryland* (Turnstone Press). Based in Victoria, she taught writing for 15 years at the University of Victoria and was the city's first poet laureate from 2006 to 2008.

This latest offering, a memoir, has a structure as formal as a patchwork quilt: four sections with six vignettes, each grouping linked to one of the four seasons. They are topped and tailed by two additional texts that provide context and reflect on the core values of her childhood—including thrift, tradition and, above all, faith. The metaphor of the quilt as memory-holder is not incidental—the theme is underlined in the book's opening, "Patchwork Crazy Quilt," and the closing, "Taking Up the Remnants."

Funk's move to prose from prosaic poetry is more a step than a leap, and similar themes recur in both. For instance, "Secrets," a poem in *The Sewing Room* (Turnstone

# Ode to Avon lotion & spearmint gum

The scent of a mother's hug and memories of her father's workshop are vividly recalled in **Carla Funk's** childhood reminiscences.



Press, 2006), one of Funk's earlier books, is here transformed into the humorous account "Every Hidden Thing." It tells how her grandfather secretly salvaged several pallets of still-frozen ice cream from the dump and distributed the windfall to family members. After Carla divulges the secret of the ice cream's origins to a friend, her mother spansks her with a wooden spoon, fearful the neighbours will label the family "as dirty, as dump-divers." The delicious irony, of course, is that Funk's childhood lesson about preserving a public facade seems to have melted away, this time before a much wider audience.

It's hard not to sense an incipient poet's proclivities at work as young Carla roots into the muck and fervour of daily life, gum-boot deep in sensory perception. Her mother's hug delivers "a perfume of Avon lotion and spearmint gum." On butchering day, she plays

catch with a "warm and wobbly" pig's bladder, ominously full. When her father is away, she sneaks into his workshop, revelling in this place of "big rigs, horsepower, air horns, oil drums, tire guns, ratchets, rad hoses, woodsmoke, whisky, country crooners, raunchy laughter, and ashtrays brimming with ash and smouldering cigarettes."

Funk largely takes a child's-eye view, with all the foreshortening that implies, a strategy with both strengths and challenges. The flip side to the rich language borne by the immediacy of a child's experiences is less perspective and context. The book cannot fairly be described as a portrait of Vanderhoof as it mostly describes the circumscribed territories of childhood—her family's home and the nearby bush where she played, as well as visits to her grandparents, the Sunday trips to church, and the like. As she says at the

outset: "I knew nothing of my hometown's history."

A motley array of neighbours and family friends weave their way through her pages, their eccentricities sketched as a child might see them. Sometimes it's easy to read between the lines and draw conclusions, but I also found myself wondering about deeper issues, like the Indigenous land on which the community was built or how tensions between Carla's devout mother and her truck-driving father, who generally took a pass on church, would play out.

Young Carla yearns for transcendence, but is also a scrapper, playing devious pranks on her older brother and joining war games with the neighbourhood boys. Always curious, she pokes into things, tests boundaries, and once falls off a forbidden roof. Such accounts give the book a boost of narrative energy.

Who, for instance, can resist this opening: "In the musty heat of the canvas tent, I sat brushing Malibu Barbie's shiny blonde hair, wishing for a gun."

Like a patchwork quilt, the book points to specific memories while remaining impressionistic in the ways they are juxtaposed. The chronology is murky, and Carla's age seemingly mutates through different accounts from early childhood to a girl whose awareness of the growing rift between boys and girls points to the imminent changes of the teen years.

The book's rural setting, traditional ways and biblical parables further encourage temporal drift. At times, I

found myself slipping back further than the 1980s, presumably the era of most of the story given that Funk was born in 1974. Pop culture references to things like warped 8-tracks, Agent 007 or *Rambo* would then wrench me forward to a more recent past.

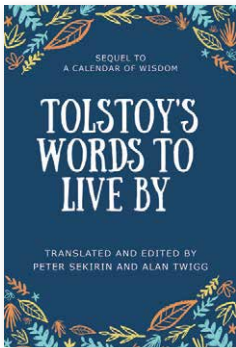
And what of writing? In "The Typewriter," Funk describes lugging books home from the library, and her first diary, where "every lie, every black thought and harsh word, every pig, jerk, stupid-face, idiot, loser, bugger-off, moron—they sang on the page." Along the way, she learned to type by following lessons on a vinyl record. As she punches the typewriter's keys, she feels her body "shift into someone smarter ... someone who might write a book, the kind real people would actually read."

9781771644662

*Portia Priegert is the editor of Galleries West magazine. She spent ten years as a journalist at the Ottawa bureau of Canadian Press, and has also worked as an art gallery director.*



# New from Ronsdale Press



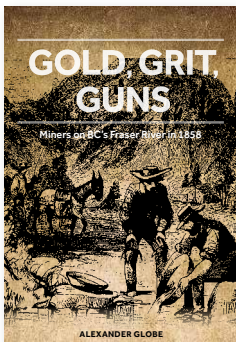
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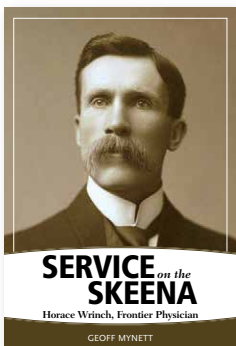
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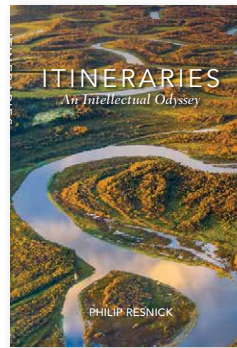
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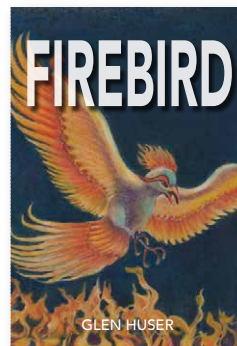
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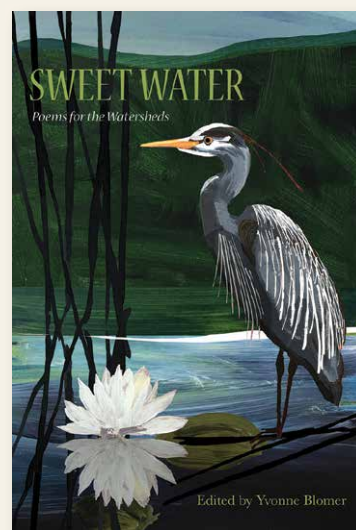
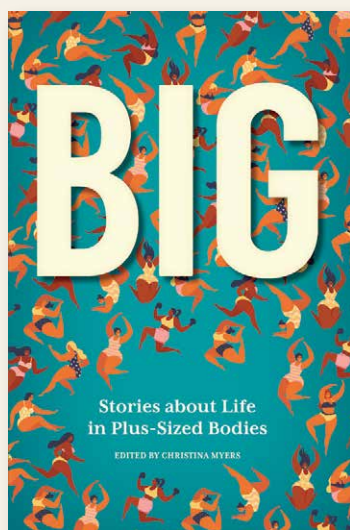
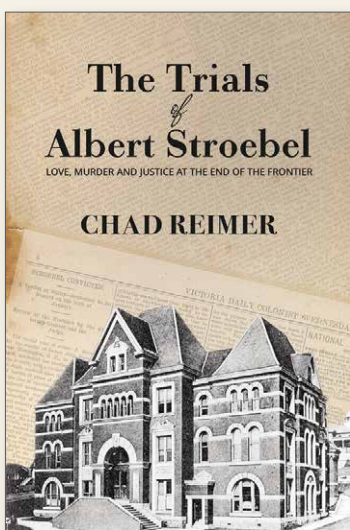
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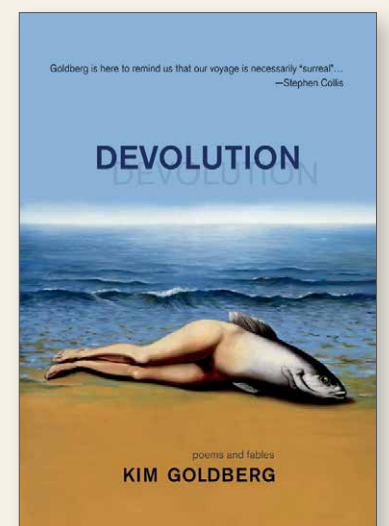
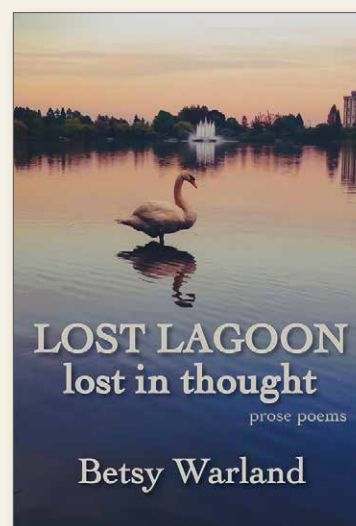
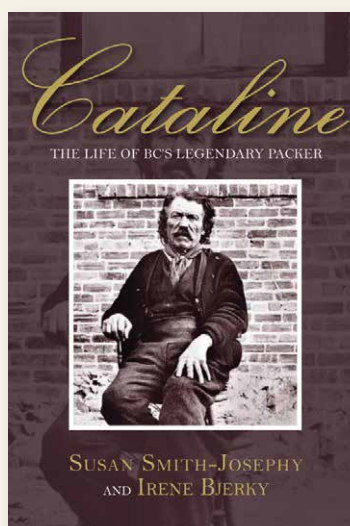
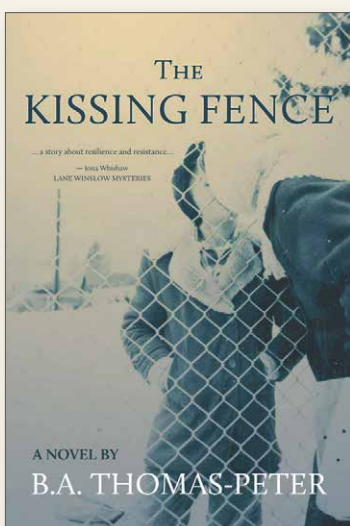
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**Land of Destiny:**  
**A History of Vancouver Real Estate**  
 by **Jesse Donaldson**  
 (Anvil Press \$20)

BY JOHN MOORE

Depending on which rung of the city's so-called 'property ladder' you happen to be teetering, just that subtitle (*A History of Vancouver Real Estate*) of **Jesse Donaldson's** corrosive chronicle of more than a century of land values—inflated by speculation, back-room insider deals, unmitigated greed, blatant nepotism and shameless conflicts of interest—is enough to provoke wailings, gnashing of teeth and the demented laughter of the damned.

"Before Vancouver was a city, it was—first and foremost—a real estate investment," Donaldson says in the introduction. The reader is invited to substitute "swindle," "hustle," "con game" or "boondoggle" for the word "investment" at almost any point in Donaldson's blood-boiling exposition of why taking out a crippling mortgage to buy into the Vancouver property market should be sufficient cause to get you pink-sheeted under the Mental Health Act and confined in an appropriate facility until you recover your wits.

The main title, **Land of Destiny**, is an ironic mockery of the kind of platitudinous post-Imperial hype used by property speculators in late 19th and early 20th century to market land all

264A, Ward Five) prior to embarking for Japan from the CPR dock on the Empress of India on April 4, 1892.

Kipling later wrote in *American Notes*: "He that sold it to me was a delightful English boy. All the boy said was, 'I give you my word it isn't on a cliff or under water, and before long the town ought to move out that way.' And I took it as easily as a man buys a piece of tobacco. I became owner of 400 well-developed pines, thousands of tons of granite scattered in blocks at the roots

miniscule patio of your North Vancouver townhouse coldly shaded by a dozen other such units, or in the 'bonus room' over the double garage of your Surrey stucco cracker-box palace while calculating that your grandchildren will inherit your mortgage payments, you may be tempted to commit acts of vandalism or arson directed at City Hall or the nearest realtors' office.

Donaldson's complex, humorous, outraged and entertaining narrative is not a simplistic call-to-arms. It is as

surrender the Pacific Coast to the aggressively expansionist United States; or they could hock their future to build a transcontinental railroad that would unite them with the British colonies of the Pacific Coast, thwarting the American policy of Manifest Destiny and giving Canada a port to engage in trade with the entire Pacific Rim.

For a nascent Canada, a Pacific port linked by rail to the grain belt of the Prairies was a vital economic artery, for which they were prepared



Jesse Donaldson dressed as a Monopoly-styled Mr. Moneybags to promote his history of Vancouver real estate.

# Serial SWINDLING

over the planet as the mania for building railroads opened up the 'dark continents' of North America, Africa, Asia and eastern Russian to questionable development by the so-called civilized nations who could afford them.

Everywhere the steel rails went, worthless wilderness was magically transformed into prime real estate, peoples who had lived there for millennia were dispossessed by legal fiat, (backed up with gunpowder) and desperate land-hungry immigrants got fleeced of their meagre life's savings like hick rubes on a carnival midway.

Vancouver was not unique in this respect. It may now be in the sense that few other such cities have had their dirty laundry aired as thoroughly and conspicuously as Donaldson hangs out Vancouver's skid-marked underwear on the Lion's Gate Bridge in this appalling account of the machinations of Vancouver's early 'city fathers.'



TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLEEING OF British author **Rudyard Kipling**. In his book *Vancouver & Its Writers* (Harbour, 1986), **Alan Twigg** noted that Kipling had been greatly impressed by British Columbia during his wedding tour of North America in 1892. He was so pleased that he purchased a town lot in the Mt. Pleasant area (subdivision

## The mod con game of real estate in Vancouver

of the pines, and a sprinkling of earth. That's a town lot in Vancouver. You or your agent hold onto it till property rises, then sell out and buy more land farther out of town and repeat the process. I do not quite see how this sort of thing helps the growth of a town, but the English boy says it is the 'essence of speculation' so it must be all right. But I wish there were fewer pines and rather less granite on the ground."

Kipling was duped. When he returned in 1907, he learned that he'd been paying taxes on property legally owned by someone else.

Privately, Kipling wrote, "All the consolation we got from the smiling people of Vancouver was, 'You bought that from Steve, did you? Ah-hah, Steve! You hadn't ought to ha' bought from Steve. No! Not from Steve!' And thus did the good Steve cure us of speculating in real estate."



FAIR WARNING: IF YOU READ THIS BOOK in the closet-sized 'den' of your 700 square foot Yaletown loft, or on the

informative as it is incendiary. In the course of this caustic history Donaldson documents the racist caveats that often accompanied real estate sales, in which prospective buyers of properties in certain up-market areas of Vancouver willingly signed undertakings not to sell their property to any person of Oriental or Negro persuasion. It's embarrassing to note that these disgraceful codicils continued into the 1960s before they were publicly shamed out of print, though their spirit lingers in certain parts of the city to this day as wealthy Asian newcomers move into neighbourhoods formerly reserved for British Imperial exiles and their pampered progeny.

After the Confederation of the eastern colonies in 1867, leaders of the emerging nation of Canada faced a choice harder than the rock of the Canadian Shield. They could content themselves with becoming a small nation in the northeast corner of North America, a double bed uncomfortably shared with a French population, and

to cut any kind of Devil's bargain with railroad-builders. The Faustian pact Canada made with the CPR is a recurring theme in this book, since it affected speculation in Vancouver real estate, but that's a whole other equally lurid story. **Pierre Berton's** account of the building of the CPR, *The Last Spike* was published in 1971. It's overdue for "updating," as real estate agents say, and I can't imagine a better qualified writer than Jesse Donaldson to take John Henry's steel-drivin' hammer to that tale.

Meanwhile, Donaldson's account of the bare-faced hustles—from the speculators who secretly lobbied for the site of the Canadian Pacific Railroad terminus, to the first mayors and city aldermen who were among the foremost property speculators, right up to the dubious sale of the Expo 86 lands on False Creek to offshore billionaire **Li Kai Shing**, whose Concord Pacific company pre-sold un-built condos-in-the-air to Hong Kong investors without giving the local sharks so much as a taste of blood—should be a lesson to us all in the ways of the world.

978-1-77214-144-3

*John Moore tends his garden in the Garibaldi Highlands. Realtors are forewarned not to knock.*



**The Trials of Albert Stroebel:  
Love, Murder and Justice at the  
End of the Frontier by Chad Reimer**  
(Caitlin Press \$24.95)

BY VALERIE GREEN

**A**pril 20, 1893. The body of pioneer **John Marshall** was found on his cabin veranda by a neighbour, trapper **Ira Airheart**, who had come to check on him.

Shocked by the sight of a gruesome murder in Sumas prairie, Airheart ran two miles to the nearby town of Huntingdon, south of the Fraser River, to raise the alarm.

Before the authorities could arrive, townspeople were traipsing around the cabin, tainting the crime scene.

Once the authorities did eventually arrive, they immediately ordered an on-site autopsy and a coroner's inquest. The ensuing investigation moved quickly and soon led to the arrest of one of John Marshall's friends, a handyman and part-time barber, **Albert Stroebel**, thought by many to be "a harmless boy who seemed much younger than his twenty years." Arrested within a few days and put in jail, Stroebel is described as a gentle soul, and "an unlikely killer; short, lean and crippled in the right leg and foot."

So begins the whodunnit, **The Trials of Albert Stroebel** by **Chad Reimer**.



CHAD REIMER THEN DESCRIBES SUMAS Prairie, a low-lying landform shared by B.C. and Washington State, forty miles from Vancouver. At the beginning of the 1890s it was still a frontier settlement where immigrants wandered freely back and forth across the border, giving little thought to the fact that they were moving from one country to another.

We learn Stroebel's background and how he came to be living in a room at the City Hotel in Sumas City owned by **Margaret Bartlett**, matriarch of the Bartlett family. Margaret, a strong woman who held her family together, ran the hotel while her husband **Charles** spent many nights away from home "drinking the night away."

Comfortable living with the Bartletts, young Albert had fallen in love with one of the Bartlett daughters, 13-year-old **Elizabeth**. Any relationship between a man of twenty and a very young teen would be frowned upon today, but in those days many young women were married at fourteen.

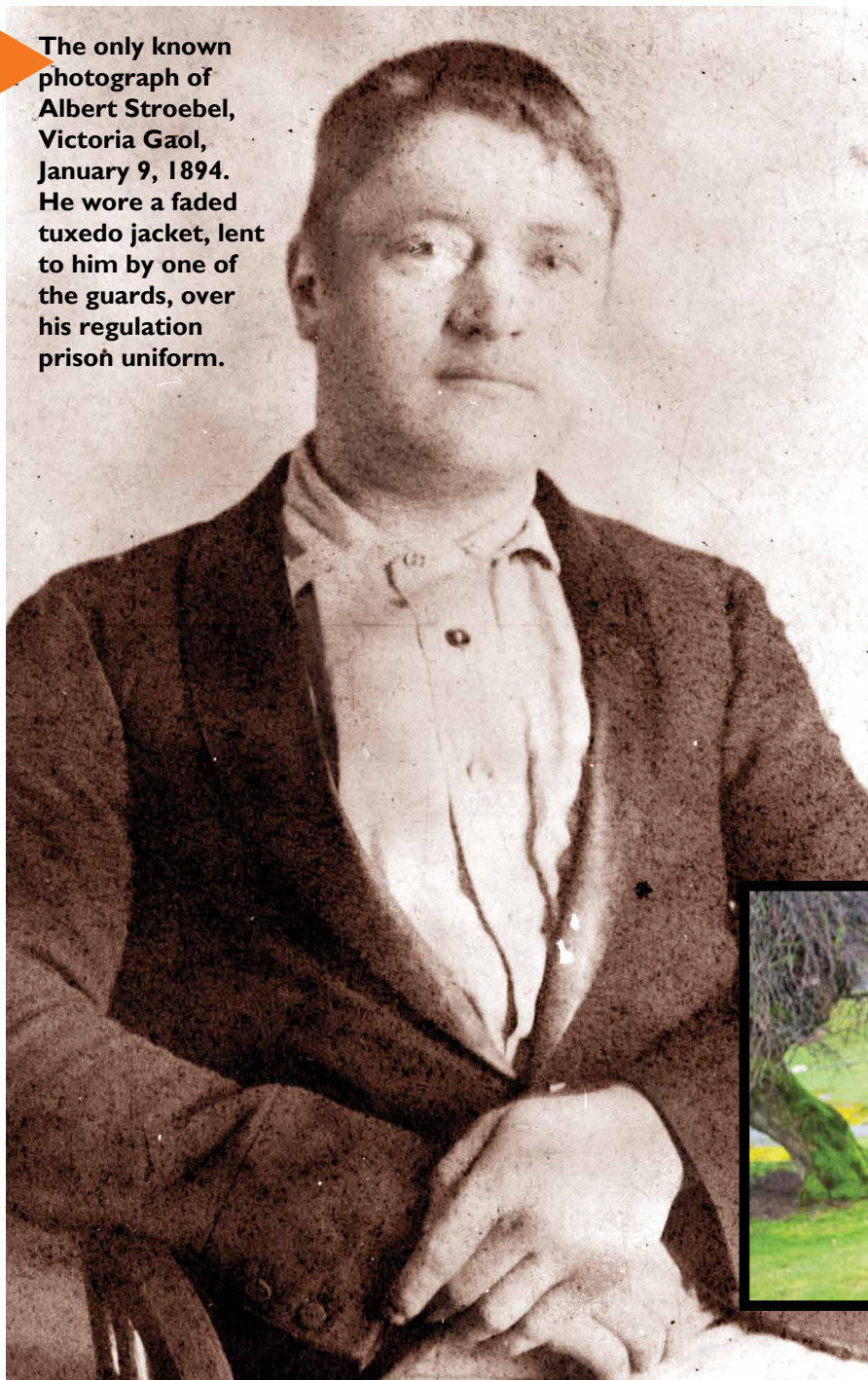
Other possible suspects are thrown into the mix and include a passing tramp and a young boy named **David Eyely** who had delighted in teasing Albert Stroebel and getting him into trouble. Eyely later confessed to having helped Stroebel commit the murder—but was he lying?

Stroebel's trial was set for June 7 in the New Westminster Spring Assizes to be presided over by the legendary **Judge Begbie**, a somewhat theatrical man in court. Begbie was the province's most distinguished judge, but he surprised everyone by postponing two other murder trials, dismissing a third through lack of evidence, and

# WHO KILLED MARSHALL?

A brutal murder, an unlikely suspect, and a society with appetites whetted for grisly crimes set the scene for this fast-paced frontier whodunnit.

The only known photograph of **Albert Stroebel**, **Victoria Gaol**, **January 9, 1894**. He wore a faded tuxedo jacket, lent to him by one of the guards, over his regulation prison uniform.



ROYAL BC MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES/F-08396

then postponing Stroebel's case until the Fall Assizes in November. Eyely would also be tried alongside Stroebel but Eyely later retracted his confession, having simply only injected more confusion into the case.

The trial would be presided over by **John McCreight**, who had served as the first Premier of British Columbia (before **Amor de Cosmos**). It ended

with a hung jury even though Stroebel's defense lawyer, **Aulay Morrison**, had done a masterful job of defending him. The jury could not reach a unanimous decision, so a second trial was called for.

Rather than postponing until the following Spring Assizes in New Westminster, crown prosecutor **Theodore Davie** requested the trial be moved

to a Victoria court immediately to be presided over by **Judge Walkem**.

By the time the second trial began in Victoria later in November public interest was high. The court room was packed to capacity. People already had their appetites whetted for "true crime" from the many lurid newspaper reports of Jack the Ripper in London and the **Lizzie Borden** axe murders in Massachusetts.

Readers will enjoy insights into the characters of Begbie and McCreight, and their varied ways of interpreting the law, in addition to the actions of Theodore Davie, the crown prosecutor who presided over both of Stroebel's trials, and was brilliant throughout, despite a lingering illness which eventually took his life in 1898.

As a lawyer of 22, Theodore Davie's first wife was a girl of fourteen, **Blanche Baker**, and their nuptials had caused a scandal at the time. Davie might well, therefore, have had some understanding of the relationship between Albert Stroebel and Elizabeth Bartlett.

Without modern day pathology and forensics such as DNA and finger printing, lawyers did the best they could to defend or prosecute defendants. Stroebel was finally found guilty and sentenced to hang on January 31 of 1894, but the story was far from over as Stroebel awaited his fate on death row.

The remaining surprising twists and turns in Stroebel's case are superbly portrayed by Reimer and one is left to wonder "was justice finally served for John Marshall or not?"

This work of creative non-fiction would have benefitted from the inclusion of an index but it is impeccably researched and told in an electrifying, attention-grabbing way by Reimer who is also the author of *Before We Lost the Lake: A Natural and Human History of Sumas Valley* (Caitlin, 2018).

9781773860206

Valerie Green has written more than twenty non-fiction historical and true-crime books. Her debut novel *Providence* (Sandra Jonas Publishing, 2020) will be the first in a series of four novels called *The McBride Chronicles*, a family saga set in early B.C. [valeriegreenauthor.com](http://valeriegreenauthor.com)



**Chad Reimer at Musselwhite Cemetery, just above Sumas Prairie in what is now Abbotsford. John Marshall, the murder victim, was buried here. He was only the second or third person buried in the cemetery. None of the old grave markers survived. Marshall's remains would have been close to where Reimer is standing.**





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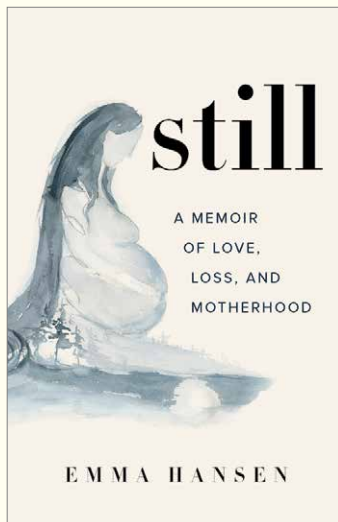


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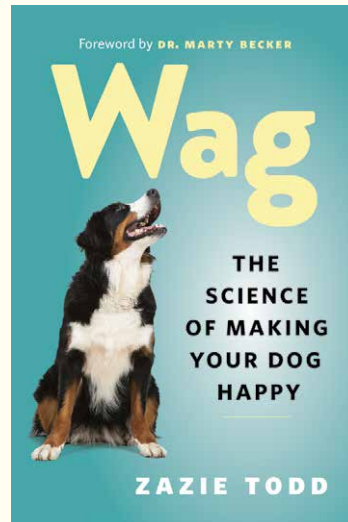
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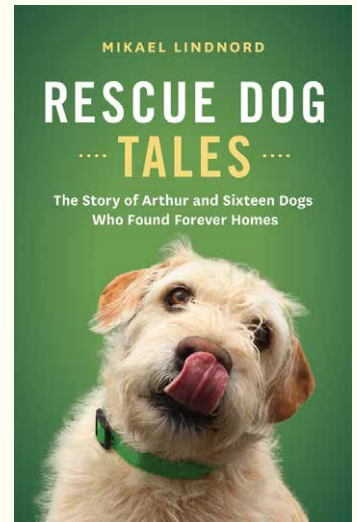
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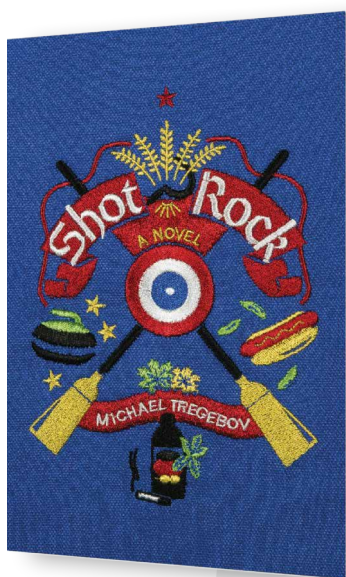


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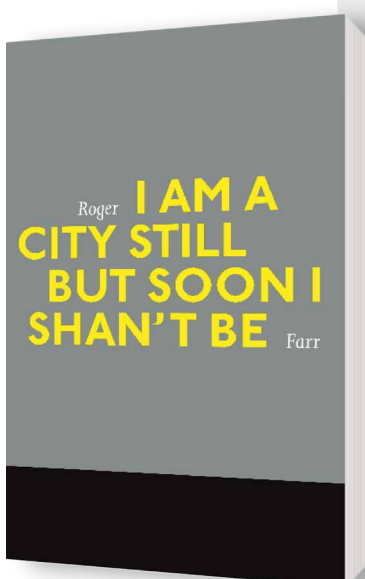
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### The Smallest Objective

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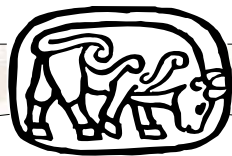
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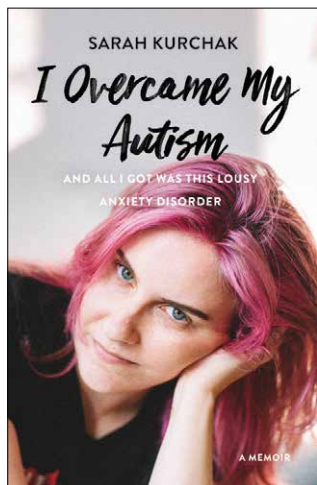
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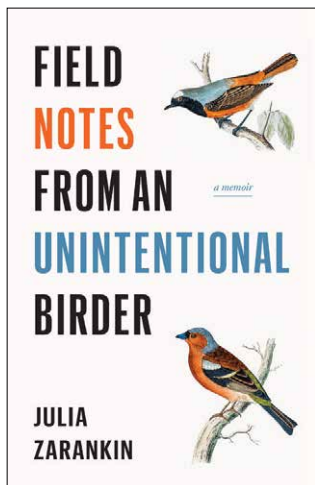


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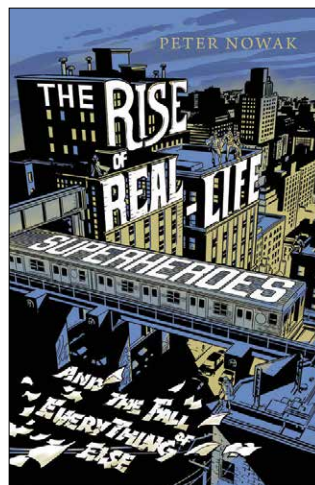


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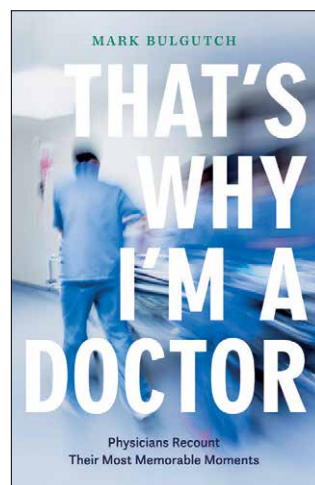


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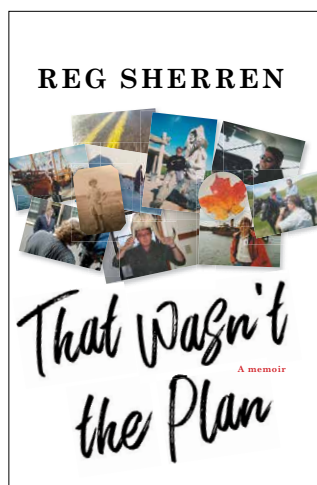


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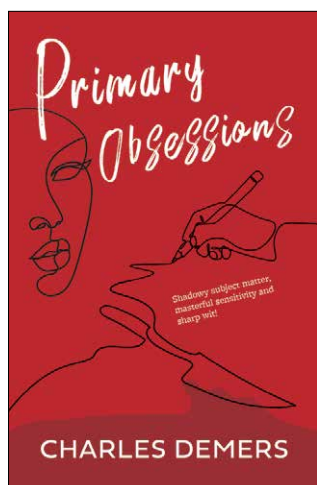


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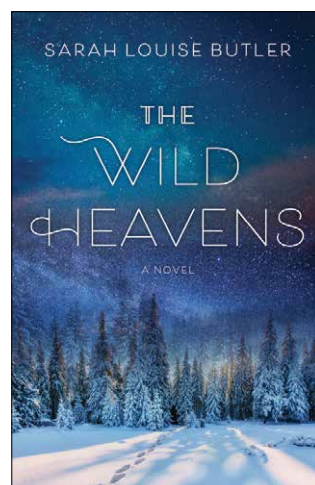


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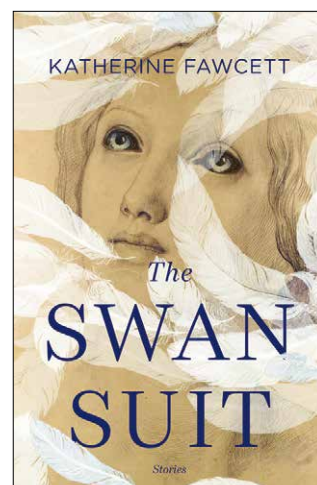


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In Nature's Realm: Early Naturalists  
Explore Vancouver Island  
by Michael Layland  
(TouchWood Editions \$40)

BY CAROLINE WOODWARD

**I**n Nature's Realm is a trove of plant, fishing and hunting knowledge, much of it gathered by early botanists on Spanish, English and Hudson Bay Company expeditions to Vancouver Island.

For his third book, **Michael Layland** has gathered 139 colour and black and white illustrations by onboard artists who visited Vancouver Island (previously cited as Vancouver's and Quadra's Island) during the late 1700s and the 1800's, as well as paintings by artists who settled in Victoria during the city's early years.

Artworks by women, in particular, are a revelation. **Emily Carr's** childhood notes about her drawing lessons with the pioneer artist **Emily Woods** are a charming example.

Vintage and contemporary photographs of flora, fauna and human subjects also enhance the context of the history.

The multi-faceted appeal of this book will not come as a surprise to fans of Layland's first two books of early B.C. history, both handsomely published by TouchWood Editions. *The Land of Heart's Delight: Early Maps and Charts of Vancouver Island* (2013) and *A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island* (2016) were both nominated for multiple awards.

The front cover of this coffee-table book features an especially lovely and appropriate **E.J. Hughes** painting, 'An Island in Bird's Eye Cove,' depicting the cove near Duncan where Hughes lived for much of his long creative life. The back cover is a very fine black-and-white depiction of Friendly Cove on Nootka Island, rendered by **Jose Cardero**, one of the artists on board a seven-boat Spanish expedition in 1792.

Friendly Cove—known in Spanish as Cala de Amigos—is now called Yuquot, the name used prior to first contact. In the Nuuchah-nulth language that means 'as wind comes from all directions,' to which I can certainly attest having been a lightkeeper at Nootka Lightstation for several years, in all seasons.

The artist Cardero began his career as a cabin boy running errands for the officers who noticed and encouraged his talent for drawing. He also learned what he could from one of the official artists on board while docked in Buenos Aires. He soon found himself on a hasty, two-ship expedition with **Captain Malaspina** to Alaskan waters in 1791, chasing rumours of the Northwest Passage gleaned from a just-published French map.

The Spanish made it as far as 59 degrees 15 minutes North in late August before the cold drove them south to Nootka Island. Thanks to the wide-ranging research and the conversational flow of the writing, we can well imagine the secret orders being given and the nautical dangers encountered.

Along the way we learn of the power struggles between gentlemen

# Cardero & Co.

## Layland gets the lay of the Island

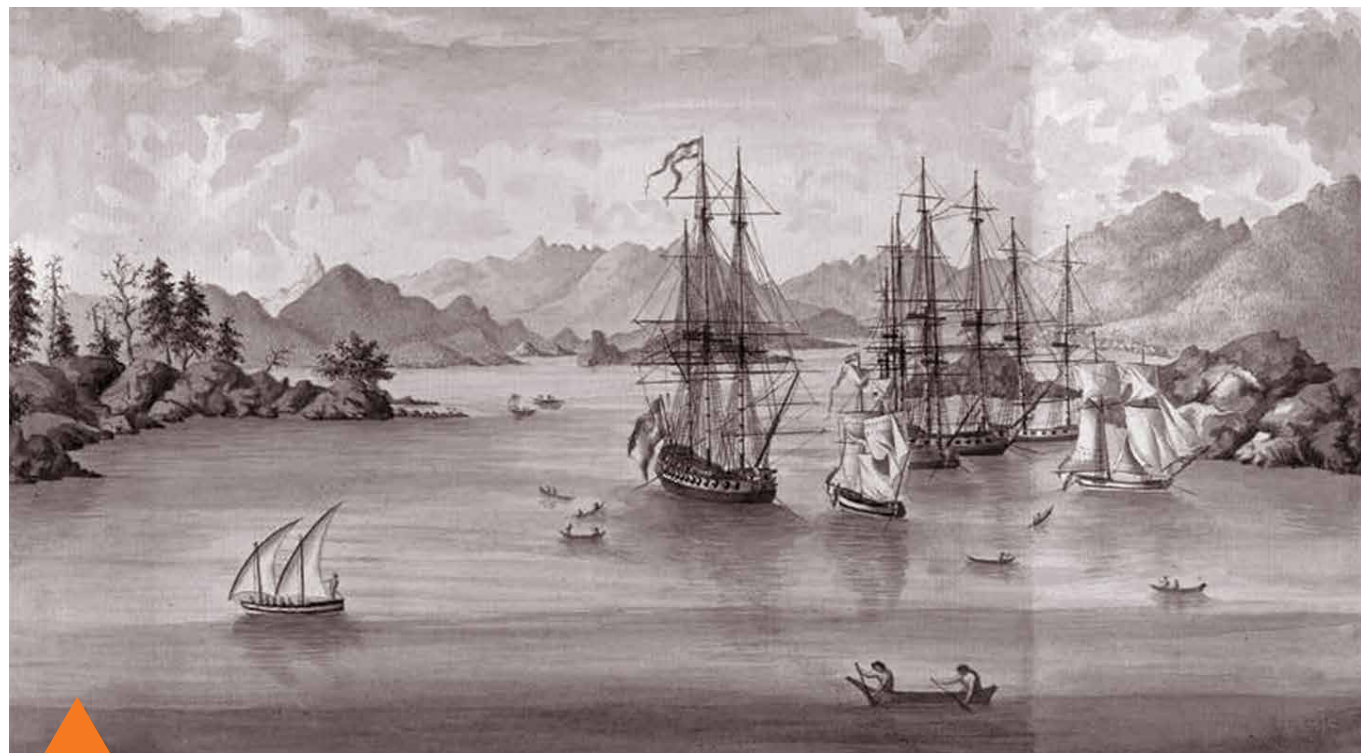
botanists and ship's captains who were sometimes turfed from their own more comfortable quarters to accommodate the wealthy sponsors of the voyage.

I can only applaud superb writing like this, an act of synthesis combining meticulous research, which never slows the pacing with the weight of centuries, and a compelling narrative voice which unerringly hits just the right tone, a high-wire non-fiction feat to pull off.

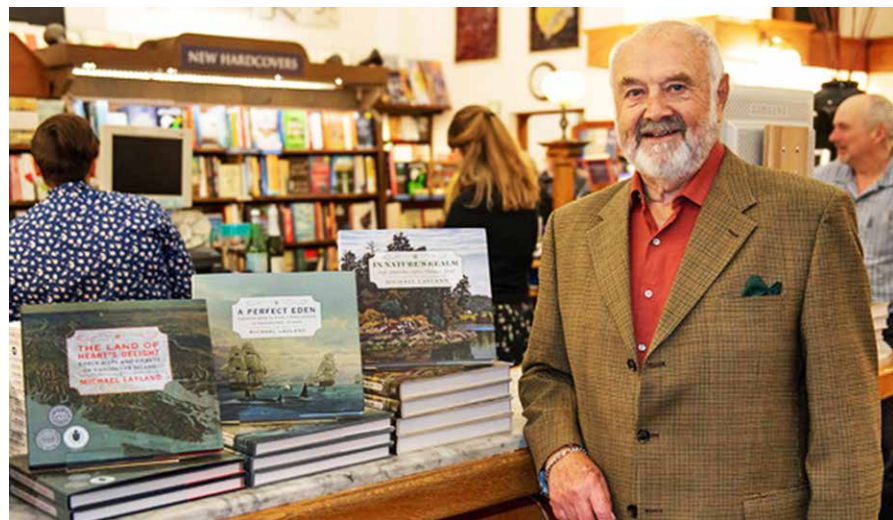
the stormy voyage around Cape Horn and were successfully transplanted in London's Kew Gardens.

Now, of course, these prickly, show-stopping Chilean pine trees (which can live as long as one thousand years) flourish in the rainforest climate of the entire B.C. coast, including Haida Gwaii.

While the names of Captains **Cook** and **Malaspina**, or botanists **Archibald**



Friendly Cove in Nootka Sound, aquatint by José Cardero, 1792.



Michael Layland has won the "Bazzie", the Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize.

Readers feel as though we have overheard tense exchanges behind the captain's closed door or have just noticed the ship's surgeon and botanist (**Archibald Menzies**) quietly pocketing the nuts served at a banquet held by **Ambrosio Bernardo O'Higgins**, a flamboyant Irish soldier of fortune who somehow became the governor of Santiago, Chile.

Menzies planted those nuts (the Chileans liked them roasted, which makes me wonder if Menzies had a chat with the cooks, asking them to set aside a few raw nuts for him...) in his live specimen container on the quarterdeck of **Captain Vancouver's** ship, *Discovery*. Five of them survived

**Menzies, David Douglas, and John Macoun**, will be known to most readers, countless other talented people made important contributions to our natural history. Layland directly addresses the fact that even though Indigenous people used "the natural world around them to provide their food, housing, clothing, transportation, tools, and weapons, while respecting and protecting its bounty", the newcomers, with the notable exceptions of some artists like Emily Woods, often neglected to inquire for pertinent details from the very people who had survived here for millennia.

Fortunately, the timely contributions of B.C. ethnobotanist **Nancy**

**Turner**, whose books are informed by decades of consultation with Indigenous women, are highlighted and listed in a selected bibliography, along with **Judith Williams'** groundbreaking book on mariculture, the Indigenous cultivation of clam gardens now known as sea gardens.

Early drawings also help us understand how the Central Coast Salish people near Chemainus on Vancouver Island ingeniously trapped flying geese and ducks with bird-net poles which were from nine to thirty metres high.

Descriptions of patient teamwork during dangerous whale-hunting expeditions by Indigenous people contrast vividly with accounts of English gentlemen blasting away at any and all birds for sport; oyster-catchers were reported as tasty eating, as were albatrosses.

The book is nothing if not diverse. It offers a useful definition of the difference between botanical art versus illustration and floral painting; it tells us the story of the failed attempt to in-

troduce English songbirds to Vancouver Island; and it includes the studies of pioneering entomologists.

The formation of the Provincial Museum of Natural History and Anthropology in Victoria on October 25, 1886, was a pivotal moment for all the collectors of flora and fauna specimens in the province. Along with superbly preserved items, the new museum received "one shark's head, piece of lava, collection of ancient coins, one hippocampus (seahorse), and a piece of pavement from Rome."

There is never a dull moment in this beautiful and thoroughly enjoyable book. It will appeal to Indigenous elders, armchair adventurers, Island hikers and coastal sailors, student, amateur and professional historians, artists, botanists and photographers, museum and art gallery curators—and everyone who appreciates a well-written and gorgeously illustrated book.

That's why it has been awarded the 2020 Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize which "recognizes outstanding contributions by scholarly individuals to the academic and cultural fabric of British Columbia."

978-1-77151-306-7

*Caroline Woodward and her photographer husband Jeff George have offered to stay on as keepers of the Lennard Island Lightstation, rather than take their planned retirement, until they feel truly ready to leave one of the safest places to be in quarantine on the planet.*



# Not skirting the issue

**A Great Revolutionary Wave: Women and the Vote in British Columbia** by Lara Campbell (UBC Press \$27.95)

In the early 1900s, at the Victoria Fair and Exhibition, the tent of the Political Equality League was vandalized when someone removed the first two letters from the “Woman’s Suffrage” banner so that it read “Man’s Suffrage.”

In response, the group took out three more letters; that way their sign stayed up but read “Man’s Rage.”

In 1917, B.C.’s women were finally allowed to vote—after women in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta got the franchise in 1916.

Here **Beverly Cramp** interviews **Lara Campbell**, author of **A Great Revolutionary Wave: Women and the Vote in British Columbia** (UBC Press \$27.95), part of a series, *Women’s Suffrage and the Struggle for Democracy*, edited by **Veronica Strong-Boag** and launched by UBC Press to present the history of women and the vote across Canada.

**BCBookWorld:** I was amused to find this quote in your book from an anti-suffrage speech by Mrs. **Homan Childe**, reported in *The Champion* magazine, in 1913: “Woman’s place is in the home and every woman should have one. It is her business to get one. They can all find some kind of man to make a home for. Anyway, the more I see of the men God put into the world, the more convinced I am that God did not intend us women to be too particular.”

**Lara Campbell:** *The Champion* was a leading suffrage journal based in British Columbia, and one of the few such journals in Canada. Writers for the magazine loved to poke fun at anti-suffrage men and women by writing satirical plays, short stories, jokes and columns. They sometimes performed these original pieces at suffrage meetings, as well. They clearly loved to laugh and poke fun at their opponents. They knew the issue of political equality was serious, but laughter was one way to relieve the burden of oppression and to enjoy themselves while they continued the political battle. I don’t think they get enough credit for their creativity and sense of humour.

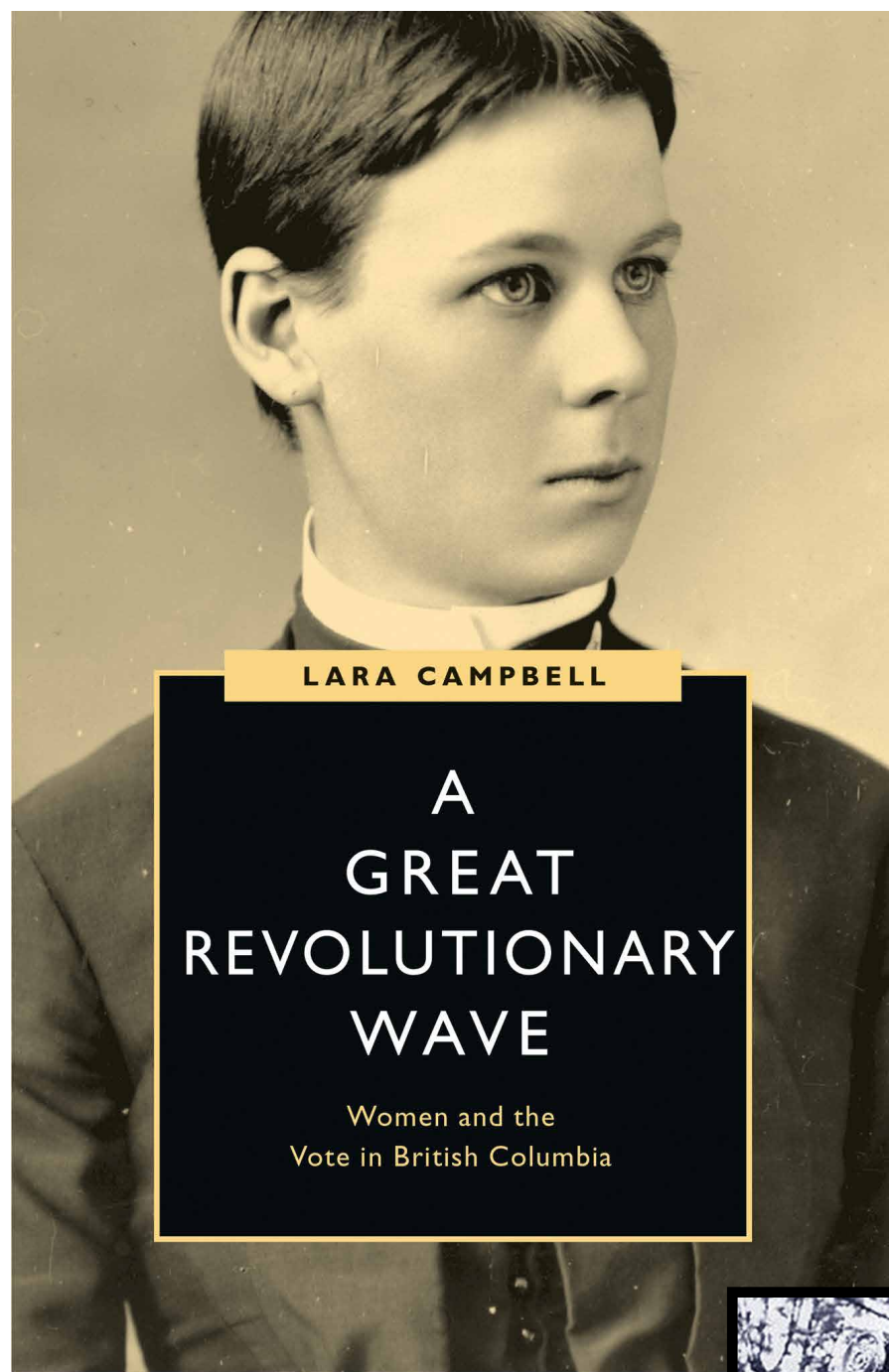
**BCBW:** Who were the prominent suffragists in B.C.?

**LC:** **Helen Gregory MacGill** was university-educated and worked as a paid journalist. She became a prominent provincial Liberal Party supporter and ultimately was appointed to the position of Juvenile Court judge.

**Mary Ellen (Spear) Smith** trained as a teacher, married coal miner **Ralph Smith** and moved to Nanaimo in 1891. She co-founded the Liberal Women’s Association and ultimately became the province’s first elected female MLA in 1918.

Society women such as **Marie McNaughton**, **Lily Laverock** and **Ethel**

B.C. finally allowed women to vote in 1917, after Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Here we interview **Lara Campbell** about B.C.’s role in the suffragist movement.



**Cody** were educated members of the University Women’s Club, but when **Helena Gutteridge** immigrated to Vancouver in 1911 from London, England, she made her living as a skilled tailor.

**Bertha Merrill Burns** was one of Gutteridge’s colleagues who moved to Nelson with her widowed mother, where they opened a boarding house. She became a Socialist Party member and journalist, and married **Ernest Burns**, a socialist labour organizer from Birmingham. Burns wrote for numerous newspapers and helped found the Social Democratic Party of British Columbia in 1907.

Quite a number of suffrage women were involved in labour or socialist politics—people like **Helen Christopher** who was married to a shipyard machinist and joined the Political Equality League (PEL) with her daughter and daughter-in-law. Victoria’s **Ada Clayton** was an active member of the

**Helena Gutteridge, 1938.**

PEL and the Socialist Party of Canada.

**BCBW:** The only one many people have heard of is Helena Gutteridge.

**LC:** Helena Gutteridge formed an organization designed to appeal to working-class women. The first such organization was the Evening Work Committee, established as a caucus of the more mainstream Political Equality League. But it became so successful that Gutteridge declared autonomy and created the first working class women’s suffrage league in Canada, the B.C. Women’s Suffrage League (WSL), followed by a sister organization, the Mount Pleasant Women’s Suffrage League. Both organizations held weekly



evening meetings, welcomed children and supported not only suffrage but government interventions to lower the cost of living, a minimum wage, workplace safety regulations and increased unionization for working-class women.

**BCBL:** What kind of tactics did B.C.’s suffragists use?

**LC:** They tried to persuade politicians and the voting public by organizing petitions, writing newspaper columns and letters to the editor, and holding public talks and debates. They started their own suffrage journal called *The Champion* published out of Victoria. It is now available to view at the British Columbia Archives. They also lobbied male politicians and convinced sympathetic MLAs to introduce private members bills in the legislature.

**BCBL:** Who were the B.C. suffragists’ major opponents?

**LC:** The most powerful opponents of women’s suffrage were male legislators who consistently voted against suffrage bills even as the movement became more popular around the world. Conservative MLA **A.E. McPhillips** warned that politically empowered women would destroy society and blamed them for atheism, infidelity and lawlessness. Surprisingly, his wife, **Emily Sophia**, was an active suffragist and a member of the Political Equality League.

MLA Major **James Mutter** claimed that women’s brains were smaller than men’s and that voting would cause them harm. But the leading anti-suffrage politician was Premier **Richard McBride** who remained opposed to suffrage over the course of his career. McBride stubbornly claimed that women did not truly want to vote, and that if they were given this right, they would take too much power away from men.

There were also some vocal, anti-suffrage clergy in the province: for example, **Father O’Boyle** delivered an infamous anti-suffrage sermon at Vancouver’s Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in which he denounced

suffrage as destroying womanhood and encouraged women to be obedient housewives like the Virgin Mary.

Some women were also anti-suffrage. A group of about 12 women in Vancouver created the Dolce Donum Club which published an article in a local newspaper stating that women couldn’t get involved

in politics without “neglecting” the important duties of motherhood and the home.

Mrs. **Rocke Robertson** of Victoria helped host a leading British anti-suffrage activist at the Women’s Canadian Club in 1909 and agreed with him that women did not need the vote. The leading Vancouver socialite (and novelist) **Julia Henshaw** claimed that she’d rather stick her hand in a “hornet’s nest” than join the movement.





**BCBL:** Who were important supporters of B.C.'s suffragists?

**LC:** William Fraser Tolmie, John Cunningham Brown, Montague Tyrwhitt-Drake and Ralph Smith were all reform-oriented politicians who held modern ideas about women's right to participate in public life. Suffragists also had some key allies amongst male clergy, such as Bishop William Perrin and Rev. Henry Edwards.

Socialist labour leader and publisher Parm Pettipeice gave Helena Gutteridge a column on suffrage in the *BC Federationist* and Socialist MLA James Hawthornwaite consistently voted for suffrage. Vancouver suffragists also had an ally in politician and newspaper owner L.D. Taylor, who saw himself as a populist reformer.

Taylor owned the *Vancouver Daily World* and he gave suffragist Susie Lane Clark a weekly column in which she promoted the work of suffrage groups in the city. With Taylor as mayor, city council enfranchised married women at the municipal level. Prior to 1910, only unmarried women could vote. But property restrictions for both men and women weren't removed on municipal voting in Vancouver until the 1950s.

Under the leadership of Harlan Brewster, the Liberals made women's suffrage part of its official platform. While some suffragists—most notably Helena Gutteridge—remained defiantly non-partisan, this support swayed many to throw their support behind the Liberal party structure. Gutteridge was critical of the Liberals and pointed out that political parties used women's energy and organizing skill to win elections without following through on election promises.

The Liberals defeated the Conservatives and won power in 1916, and did fulfill their promise to introduce women's suffrage (limited by race), as well as a minimum wage for working women, equal guardianship rights for mothers, and a mothers' pension. Mary Ellen Smith became the first woman in BC to win a seat in the provincial legislature and the Liberals made her a cabinet minister, the first woman in the British Empire to hold such a position.

**BCBL:** What most surprised you from your research?

**LC:** Well, I wasn't surprised that suffragists held racist and xenophobic views about immigrants—this has been well-documented. But I was a little surprised at the extent of anti-European xenophobia. Eastern and Southern European immigration was less prevalent in B.C. than in the prairies, but perhaps B.C. women imagined themselves as part of the "West" more broadly, and feared the presence of non-Protestant and non-English speaking European immigrants.

That European men were allowed to vote after meeting residency requirements enraged many suffrage women in the province, because they believed that as educated, literate, respectable, Christian women of British background they were most entitled to vote. These tropes of dissolute and uneducated



(clockwise, top left): Helen Gregory MacGill, a judge and Vancouver's first female councillor; Sir Richard McBride, B.C. premier (1903-1915), opposed women having the vote for his entire career; Kang Tongbi, a reformer from China, addressed B.C. suffragists in the early 1900s; The Champion, B.C.'s first suffrage magazine (1912) with the motto "The Woman's Cause is Man's" from a poem by Tennyson; William Fraser Tolmie, an early suffragist supporter, was a B.C. MLA (1874-1878); Mary Ellen (Spear) Smith became the first elected female MLA in 1918.

**"They clearly loved to laugh and poke fun at their opponents. They knew the issue of political equality was serious, but laughter was one way to relieve the burden of oppression and to enjoy themselves while they continued the political battle."**

**— LARA CAMPBELL**

European men framed suffrage arguments until 1916.

**BCBL:** Who did the early suffragists leave behind in their fight for political equality?

**LC:** This is an important question because it asks us to take seriously the fact that suffragists left many people behind in British Columbia and all across the country. Very few suffragists seriously considered the possibility of political equality for racialized women and men, and actively attempted to restrict Asian immigration.

The way that suffragists understood Chinese women was especially frustrating. After 1900, B.C. women were really interested in the women's movement in China, and some of those leaders travelled in B.C. and spoke to wide audiences: reformer Kang Youwei, for example, and his daughter Kang Tongbi. Suffragists deeply admired how Chinese women pushed for political equality, access to professional work and higher education. Yet B.C. suffragists did not extend that admiration and respect to the Chinese Canadian women and men living in the province and consistently viewed women and men from China, Japan and South Asia as potential threats to the integrity of the nation.

Suffragists also left behind Indigenous people. Although many Indigenous women shared concerns about maternal and child welfare with suffragists—advocating for access to mothers' pensions, for example, or criticizing male power over women and children, suffragists did not try to understand the consequences of colonization or attempt to reach out to Indigenous women and their organizations.

**BCBL:** Is there anything else you want to add that is

particularly important in the history of women's suffrage in B.C.?

**LC:** British Columbia was the only province in Canada to put the question of women's suffrage to a referendum. Referendae were quite common in the United States but not so in Canada. After

Premier McBride resigned in 1915, suffragists hoped that his replacement, the former Attorney General William Bowser, would introduce a suffrage bill. But instead, Bowser promised suffrage legislation if the majority of the voting electorate—all men, mostly of British background—passed the question in a referendum.

Suffragists were furious at this turn of events and lobbied him intensely to change his mind. But Bowser refused and scheduled a referendum for fall of 1916, during the general election. Many individuals and some local suffrage groups decided to ignore the referendum entirely, claiming that it was an affront to democracy. But most decided to fight hard during the summer of 1916 and convince the majority of male voters to support women's suffrage. Women and men across the province set up special referendum committees, took out ads in newspapers, travelled to give speeches and spoke at political rallies.

Suffragists were hopeful but not sure how deep the support for suffrage actually was. The referendum did pass with the needed majority and legislation followed in April of 1917, though it was restricted by race and did not guarantee women the right to vote federally.

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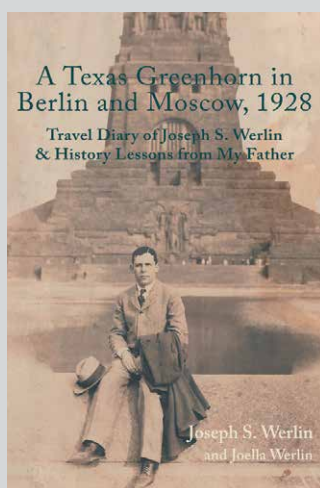
*This interview has been condensed and edited.—Ed.*



**SFU professor Lara Campbell co-hosts Café Minerva, which holds talks on gender and women's history in the greater Vancouver area.**



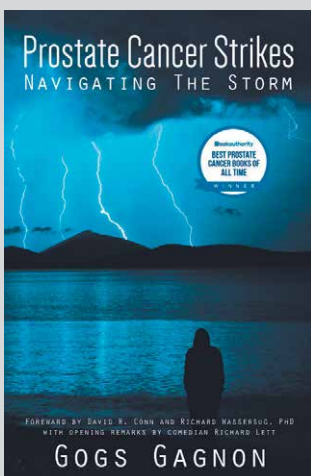
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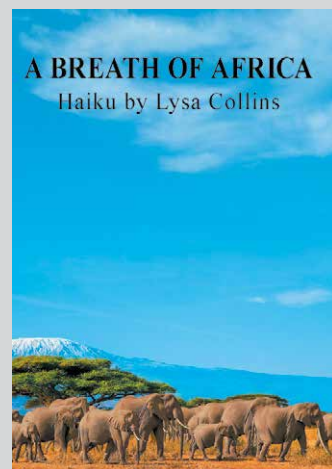
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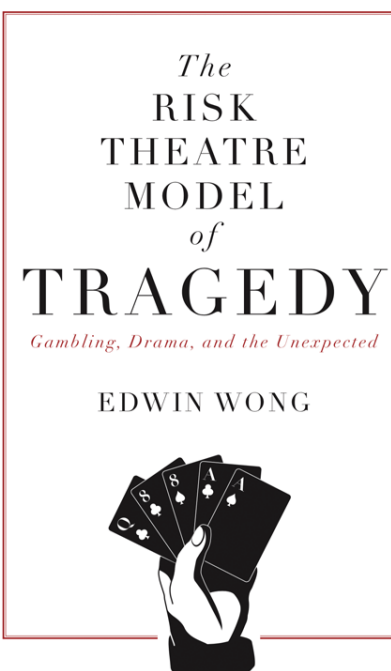
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**NISHGA** By Jordan Abel  
(McClelland & Stewart \$32.95)

BY LATASH-MAURICE NAHANE

J

ordan Abel's **NISHGA** is not a poem, essay or a letter. It is the documentation of one man's life journey and it is the journey of

thousands of young Indigenous people.

Abel's story begins shortly after the founding of Canada as a country in 1867 as the notion was conceived to separate Indigenous children from their parents. From the 1870s up to the 1990s, at least 150,000 children were forcibly removed from their homes by police and clergy and placed in institutions called Indian Residential Schools. It set in motion a wave of destruction.

The first Canadian prime minister, Sir **John A. MacDonald** was also at various times the minister of Indian Affairs. Abel provides an early quote from MacDonald:

"It has been strongly pressed on myself as head of the Department, that Indian children be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of white men."

This was the beginning of the Indian Residential school system. Abel points out that these Indian residential schools offered much more than a liberal education. They were run by men and women who sexually abused children, used corporal punishment as a measure to curb children from speaking their Indigenous languages, and allowed medical starvation experimentation on inmates.

Abel's grandparents met at Coqualeetza Residential School in Sardis, British Columbia. They were Nisga'a from the Nass Valley of northwestern B.C. Their formative years were spent without the love of their parents and extended families. Lacking the nurturing of a loving family, his grandparents

Although never having attended a residential school, Nisga'a poet and Indigenous scholar **Jordan Abel** suffered from the aftershocks of these colonial institutions.

began a dysfunctional life. The trauma of their life together was passed onto their son **Lawrence Wilson**, Jordan Abel's father, who married a settler woman.

Many Nisga'a attended Indian residential schools far from their homeland. And many returned to their extended families where they began to relearn their culture and language. Leaders such as **James Gosnell**, **Frank Calder** and **Rod Robinson**, upon returning to the Nass, became part of a generation who would win the first modern treaty in B.C. They too attended the Coqualeetza institution.

However, Abel's grandparents did not return to the Nisga'a homeland. They moved to Vancouver. This change of trajectory would prove to be a devastating turning point for the family.

Abel's parents split apart soon after he was born. This resulted in Abel moving to Toronto where he was raised by his single mother and

cut off from his Indigenous roots.

I can imagine what it was like for Jordan Abel being raised so far from his homeland by his mother. Her experience with Indigenous people and Indigenous culture was limited and negative. Abel also had to contend with being in an urban center like Toronto where, if you look different from other children, questions arise about what your ethnicity is! When you don't know, it is difficult to answer. Abel's school years were marred by racism.

At the time of this writing, Abel was completing his doctoral degree. He is in the top intellectual percentile of the Canadian population. He is an anomaly in many senses of the word. He identifies as Nisga'a because his father is Nisga'a. Since the Nisga'a are famous for their landmark treaty victory, he unwittingly becomes a target of many inquiries.

The Nisga'a are among the few celebrity First Nations in Canada. People are curious about

the Nisga'a. From the 1980s until the signing of the treaty, they were big news and covered regularly in print and broadcast media. I was a journalist during this time and I wrote about their struggle to get a treaty. Closer to home, I married a Nisga'a; her name is **Delgamha**. Her father is hereditary chief, **Simooegit Hymas**. He was one of the main negotiators of the treaty. So, I learned firsthand about the Nisga'a people and their amazing culture.

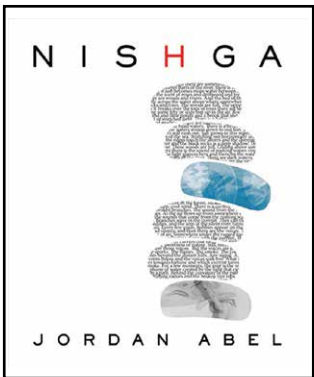
One troubling aspect of Jordan Abel's **NISHGA** is the lack of research on available Indigenous sources. In 1993, *Nisga'a* (Douglas & McIntyre) was published with the assistance of hereditary leaders. It is the compelling story of a people determined to live in a distinct society based on the teachings of their ancestors. There is also the Nisga'a court case known as *Calder v. British Columbia (Attorney-General)* which is available to the public. And there are dozens of news articles and TV documentaries. I did a Google search and found many interesting facts about the Nisga'a. In short, there are scores of sources and written documents by and about the Nisga'a. And yet I find none of them referenced in Abel's book. He does, however, quote John A. MacDonald and anthropologists such as **Marius Barbeau** (1883-1969). These are not reliable sources.

The pain and suffering of thousands of displaced Canadian Aboriginal people is illuminated in **NISHGA**. Much has been invested in getting rid of the "Indian problem" in Canada. More funds need to be redirected to working collaboratively with Indigenous people to provide the best possible life for everyone. This is not the "Indian problem;" it is everyone's problem. Canada is a land that is rich in resources. There is wealth that can be more equitably distributed for the benefit of all Canadians.

Injustice for one, is injustice for all.

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*BC BookWorld's Indigenous Editor Latash-Maurice Nahane is a member of the Squamish Nation. He has a bachelor of arts degree (Simon Fraser University).*

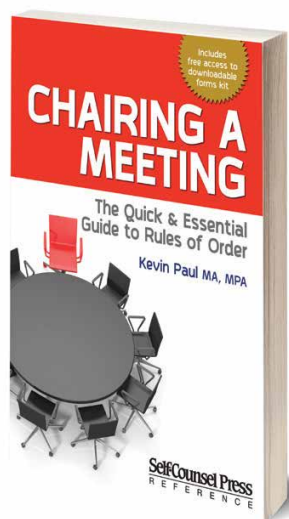




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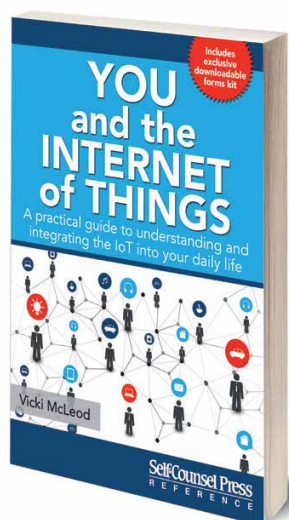


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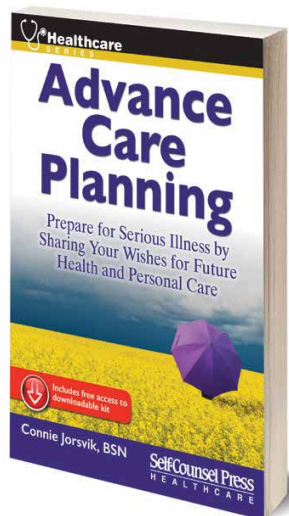


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# The ‘cool Black guy’

**Where Are You From?  
Growing Up African-Canadian  
in Vancouver by Gillian Creese**  
(UTP \$32.95)



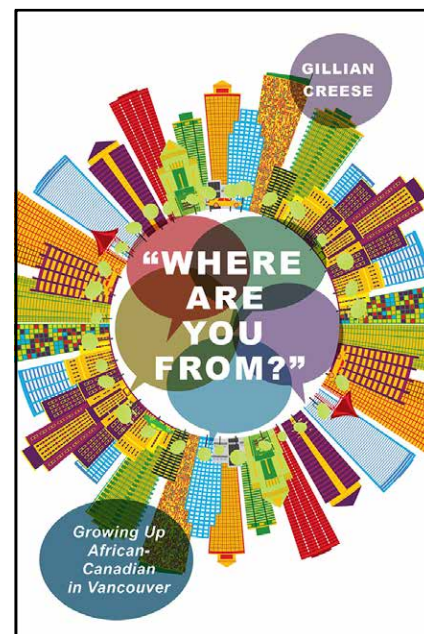
Almost half the residents of Metro Vancouver identify as people of colour but only one percent call themselves Black according to Statistics

Canada's 2016 data. It makes being African-Canadian challenging according to UBC professor **Gillian Creese** in, **Where Are You From? Growing Up African-Canadian in Vancouver**.

Children of African migrants stand out as a highly visible yet small minority and rarely see other people like themselves in a population dominated by people of European and Asian origin. Combine that with the deluge of African-American pop culture streaming across the border and it is understandable that African-Canadians struggle to establish their own identities.

Creese interviewed African migrants in Vancouver to find how they are distinguishing themselves from African-Americans, while also being faced with everyday racism and frequently asked, “Where are you from?”

She discovered that some second-generation African-Canadians reject

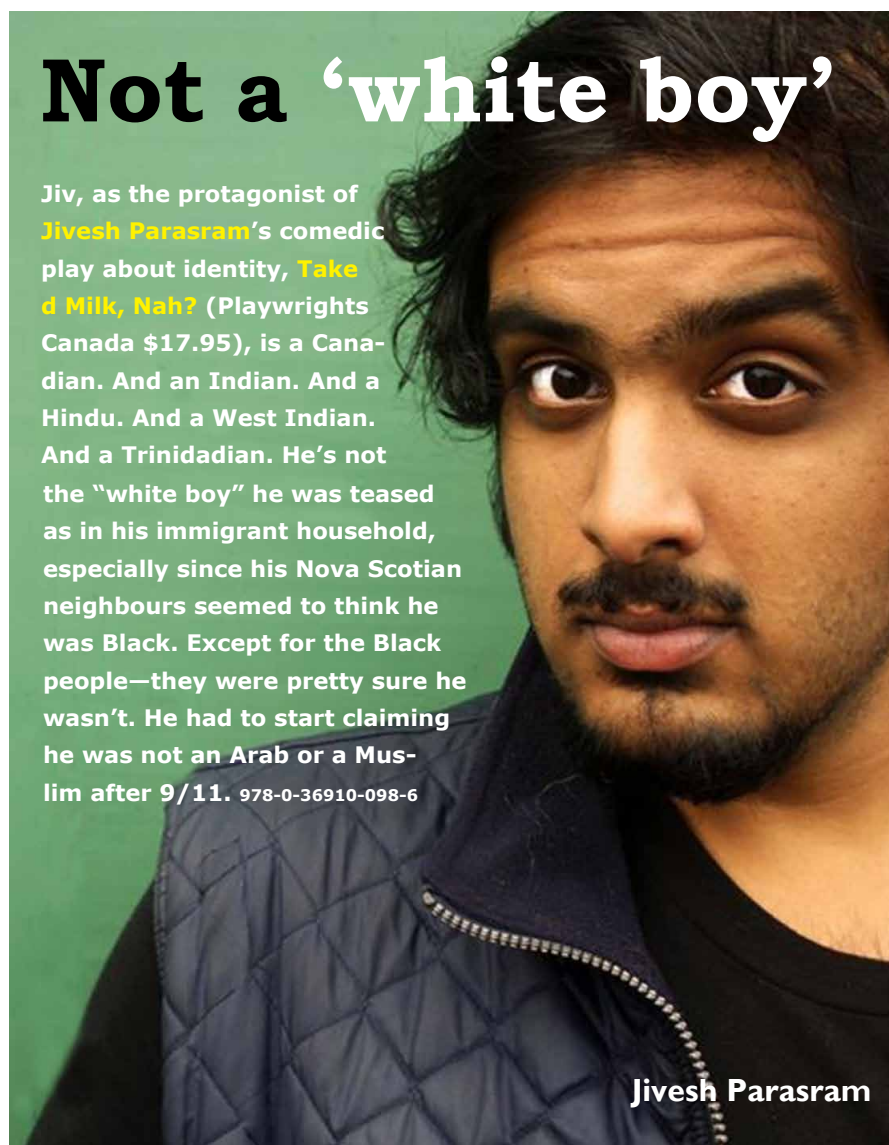


Canadian identity, while others strongly assert being Canadian. She also found that boys had it easier than girls growing up in Vancouver. Frequently, teenage boys experienced popularity as “the cool Black guy,” while girls in contrast found much less popular Black female imagery, making it harder for them to fit in.

Gillian Creese is a sociology professor at UBC and the associate dean of Arts, Faculty and Equity. She is also the author of *The New African Diaspora in Vancouver: Migration, Exclusion, and Belonging* (UTP, 2011). 978-1-4875-2456-2

# Not a ‘white boy’

Jiv, as the protagonist of **Jivesh Parasram's** comedic play about identity, **Take d Milk, Nah?** (Playwrights Canada \$17.95), is a Canadian. And an Indian. And a Hindu. And a West Indian. And a Trinidadian. He's not the “white boy” he was teased as in his immigrant household, especially since his Nova Scotian neighbours seemed to think he was Black. Except for the Black people—they were pretty sure he wasn't. He had to start claiming he was not an Arab or a Muslim after 9/11. 978-0-36910-098-6



Jivesh Parasram



# 27th **GEORGE WOODCOCK** **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT** **AWARD** for an outstanding literary career in British Columbia.

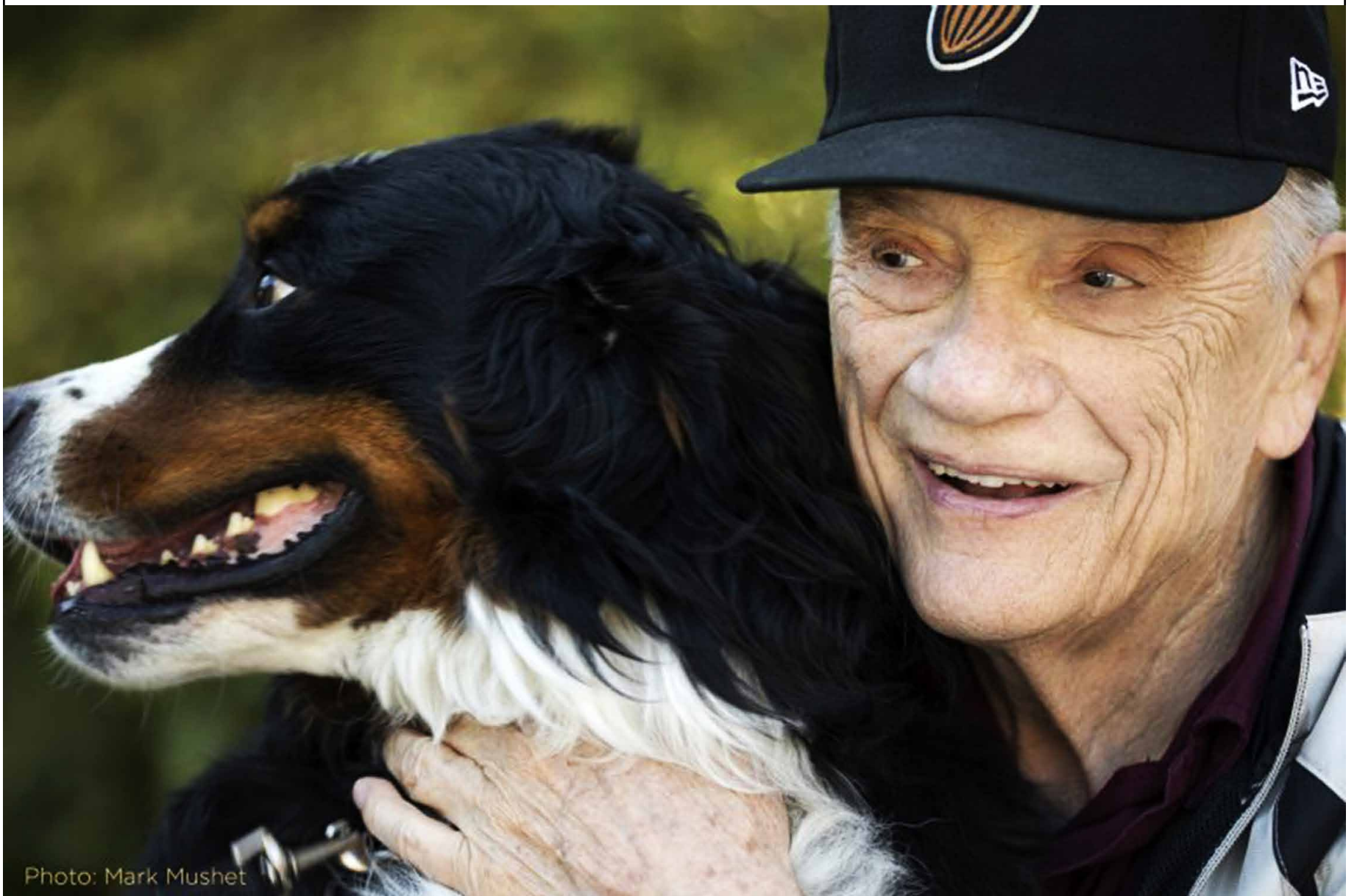


Photo: Mark Mushet

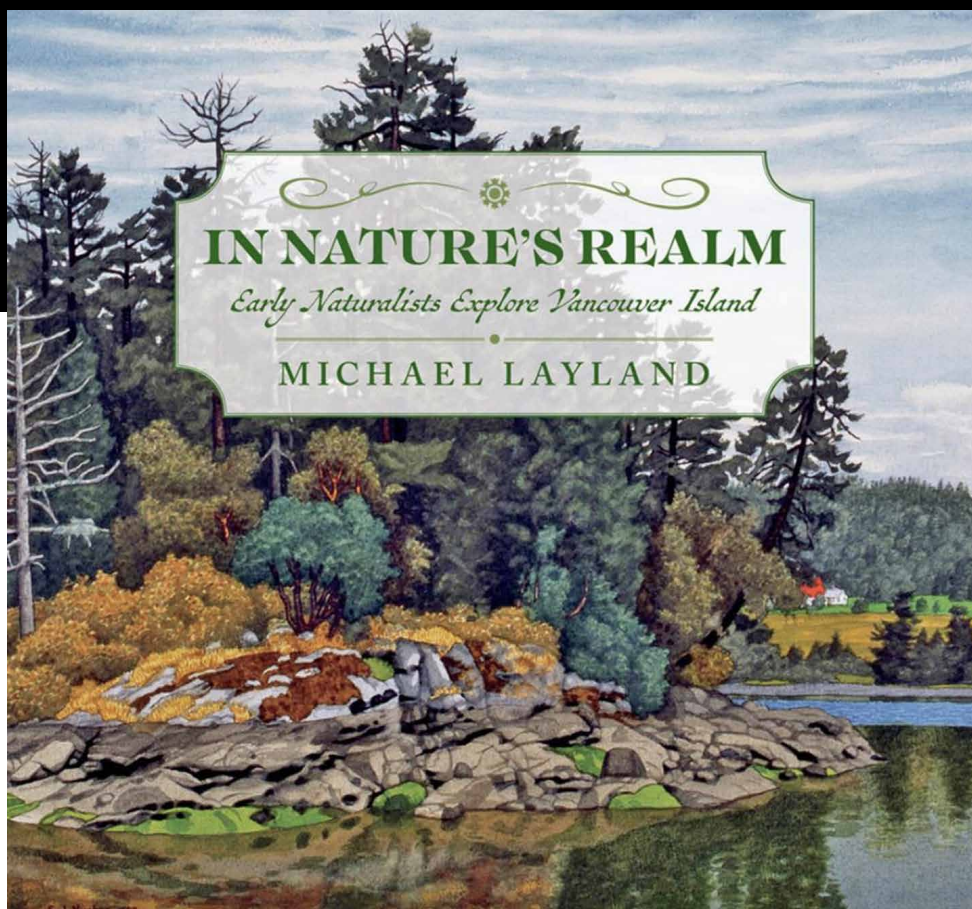
## **GEORGE BOWERING**

George Bowering, OC OBC (born December 1, 1935) is a novelist, poet, historian, and biographer of more than 100 books. He was born in Penticton, B.C. and raised in Oliver. He has served as Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate.

Since 1995, BC BookWorld and the Vancouver Public Library have co-sponsored the Woodcock Award and the Writers Walk at 350 W. Georgia St. in Vancouver. This \$5000 award is also sponsored by Dr. Yosef Wosk, The Writers Trust of Canada, and Pacific BookWorld News Society.







# THE BASIL STUART-STUBBS PRIZE

## for Outstanding Scholarly Book on British Columbia

**In Nature's Realm: Early Naturalists Explore Vancouver Island**  
(Touchwood Editions) by **Michael Layland**

**Michael Layland's** book explores the richly diverse flora and fauna of Vancouver Island through the records of explorers, settlers, and visitors, and with due respect to the wealth of Indigenous traditional knowledge of the island's ecosystems. Trained as an officer and mapmaker in the Royal Engineers, Layland was president of the Victoria Historical Society, the Friends of the BC Archives, and is an amateur naturalist.



Michael Layland

### SHORTLISTED TITLES

At the Bridge: James Teit and an Anthropology of Belonging (UBC Press) by **Wendy C. Wickwire**  
Against the Current and Into the Light: Performing History and Land in Coast Salish Territories  
and Vancouver's Stanley Park (McGill-Queen's University Press) by **Selena Couture**

•

The Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize was established in memory of Basil Stuart-Stubbs, a bibliophile, scholar and librarian who passed away in 2012. Stuart-Stubbs' many accomplishments included serving as the University Librarian at UBC Library and as the Director of UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Stuart-Stubbs had a leadership role in many national and regional library and publishing activities. During his exceptional career, he took particular interest in the production and distribution of Canadian books and was associated with several initiatives beneficial to authors and their readers, and to Canadian publishing.

Pacific BookWorld News Society co-sponsors this award with UBC Library.



**UBC Library**



**T**he ever-prolific **George Bowering**—who used to borrow **George Woodcock**'s tape recorder back in the 1960s—is the 27th recipient of the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement for an outstanding literary career in British Columbia.

Bowering had been scheduled to receive the coveted Woodcock Award—co-sponsored by **Yosef Wosk**, The Writers Trust of Canada, Vancouver Public Library and Pacific BookWorld News Society—at the Vancouver Public Library, on June 25, at 7 pm. but that event will likely be cancelled for the sake of social distancing.

Like **George Woodcock** (George the First), an anarchist philosopher who never voted or drove a car, George Bowering (George the Second) has long considered himself to be a British Columbian first and a Canadian second.

George Bowering, as Canada's first Parliamentary Poet-Laureate (2002-2004), is an easy choice on paper. A member of both the Order of Canada and the Order of B.C., he has won Governor General's Awards for both poetry and fiction.

Bowering is second to George Woodcock in terms of rivaling him with productivity, having published eighty books of his own along with having editorial roles in thirty others. George Woodcock's biographer, **George Fetherling** (George the Third), currently comes third in the productivity race with approximately forty books.

Since overcoming a cardiac arrest on the sidewalk outside the Point Grey Library in 2015, George Bowering has been the subject of a biography by former *Vancouver Sun* book page editor **Rebecca Wigod** and he has produced at least ten more books.

For those whose sense of B.C. history does not include the 20th century, Bowering might now be looked upon as an old, white guy who loves baseball—but he was unquestionably a seminal figure in the proliferation of the experimental TISH poetry movement that arose from **Warren Tallman**'s classes at UBC and his presence has definitely helped put B.C. writing onto the national literary map.



BORN IN PENTICTON IN 1935, GEORGE BOWERING was mostly raised in nearby Oliver as the son of a high school

# Woodcock goes to Bowering

**George Bowering** is the 27th recipient of the province's prestigious award for an outstanding literary career, named for the prolific anarchist **George Woodcock**.

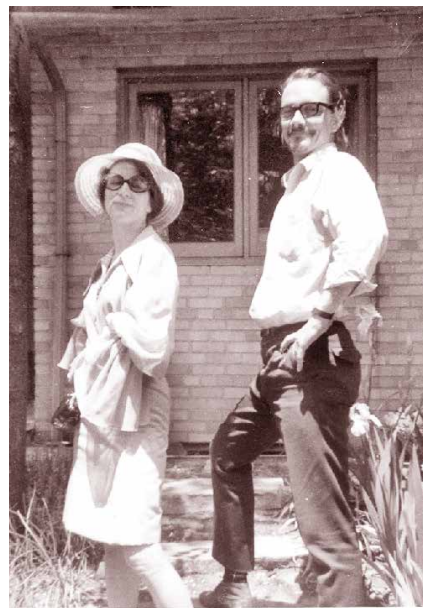


George Bowering and Allen Ginsberg, Langara College, 1978.

chemistry teacher. He was officially made a citizen of Oliver by a municipal decree passed in early 2000. He began living in Oliver in 1943 and graduated from Oliver's Southern Okanagan High School in 1953. Later he worked in three packinghouses and about twenty orchards in the area. He wrote for the *Oliver Chronicle* for many years and was once offered its editorship.

George Bowering was a Royal Canadian Air Force photographer (1954-57) after he had attended Victoria College (Victoria, B.C.). He would later attend UBC and the University of Western Ontario.

Bowering taught at SFU for 29 years (1972-2001). He was the most opinionated and outspoken writer to



Bowering and Margaret Atwood, 1968.



Bowering and W.P. Kinsella, Sechelt Festival, 1994.

emerge from the UBC-based TISH poetry newsletter, founded by students in 1961. The writing game is competitive and Bowering has been a hard-working and bright force publishing in various genres.

His approach to making books is invariably experimental. "I just want readers to notice the writing," he once wrote, as editor of the fiction anthology *And Other Stories* (Talonbooks, 2001). But one of Bowering's most enduring books might be one of his least flamboyant. His *Bowering's B.C.: A Swashbuckling History* (Viking, 1996) proves he knows B.C. as much and as well as anyone. This is one of the best books ever written about his home province—the sort of history book they wouldn't allow in schools because it says too much.

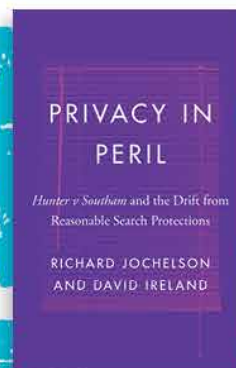
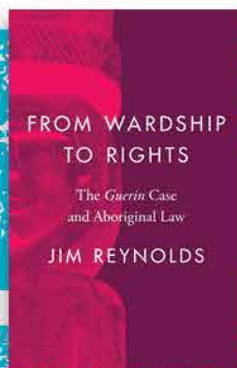
"...people in B.C. have to be taught to be Canadians," he writes. "This is done by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the *Globe and Mail*. But most British Columbians don't listen to the CBC or read the G&M."

More conventional histories by **Jean Barman**, **Terry Reksten**, **George Woodcock** and **Geoffrey Molyneux** have tended to overshadow *Bowering's B.C.* That personalized title didn't help either. But Bowering's shrewd, sometimes cynical take on human nature and politics is unfailingly provocative as an educational force.

Bowering is fascinated by, and dedicated to, uncovering and discussing what might be original about B.C. There are precious few writers in Bowering's league when it comes to a comprehensive understanding of the maverick characters and odd stories that are unique to B.C. **Howard White** of Harbour Publishing might be his only peer in this regard.

# Dive right in

with the **Landmark Cases in Canadian Law** series to discover the story behind the legal decisions that have changed Canadian law, politics, and society.



available at your local bookseller and online at [ubcpres.ca](http://ubcpres.ca)



# 2020 GEORGE RYGA AWARD FOR SOCIAL AWARENESS IN LITERATURE



## Passion & Persistence: Fifty Years of the Sierra Club in British Columbia by Diane Pinch

Passion & Persistence: Fifty Years of the Sierra Club in British Columbia (Harbour) is an appreciation of the West Coast environmental organization Sierra Club, founded in 1969. Diane Pinch joined the Sierra Club in 1975.

### FINALISTS

- 1919: A Graphic History of the Winnipeg Strike (Between the Lines) by The Graphic History Collective & David Lester
- At the Bridge: James Teit and an Anthropology of Belonging (UBC Press) by Wendy Wickwire
- Song of the Earth: The Life of Alfred Joseph (Creekstone Press) by Ross Hoffman with Alfred Joseph
- The Forbidden Purple City (Goose Lane) by Philip Huynh

Judges for the George Ryga Award were author & poet Trevor Carolan, VPL librarian Jane Curry and BC BookWorld publisher Beverly Cramp.

With the sponsorship of Yosef Wosk, VPL and Pacific BookWorld News Society, the annual George Ryga Award is given to a B.C. writer who has achieved an outstanding degree of social awareness in a new book published in the preceding calendar year.

Diane Pinch will receive \$2500 for the award but due to COVID-19, a public reception at the Vancouver Public Library to celebrate the George Ryga Award has been postponed until further notice.





# PRIZES

## REVIEW

*"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."*  
**George Bernard Shaw**

If you were to ask which organization in B.C. has done more for the environment during the past five decades—Greenpeace or the Sierra Club—you'll likely get the wrong answer from most people.

By collaborating with other groups, by using the courts and peaceful protests, respecting politicians, and always obeying the law, the B.C. chapter of the Sierra Club has produced an amazing inventory of victories.

For instance, with their collaborative approach, they helped create the Spatsizi Plateau Provincial Park in 1975, the first large protected area in Canada specifically established to protect wildlife, and the Sierra Club was a key partner in the successful efforts of **Peter and Ian McAllister** to establish the Great Bear Rainforest.

**Passion and Persistence: Fifty Years of the Sierra Club in British Columbia 1969-2019** (Harbour \$36.95), by long-time Sierra Club member **Diane Pinch**, responsibly chronicles the organizations many successes as well as some setbacks. It has therefore been selected as this year's winner of the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness.

★  
THE STORY OF THE SIERRA CLUB GOES BACK to northern California in 1892 when a Scottish-born shepherd and outdoorsman named **John Muir**, keen to protect his beloved Sierra Madre mountains, generated the Sierra Club in San Francisco. With its credo "to make the mountains glad," this was one of the world's first organizations designed to undertake large-scale environmental preservation campaigns.

Two years after Muir escorted President **Theodore Roosevelt** through Yosemite in 1903, the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove were preserved as America's second national park, after Yellowstone was created in 1872.

Fast forward to 1968. In the spirit of John Muir, an ad-hoc group of citizens in the Lower Mainland known as the Save Cypress Bowl committee was rallying to prevent the development of a commercial resort in the North Shore Mountains. To augment that campaign, the first B.C. chapter of the Sierra Club was formed in 1969, spearheaded by **Terry Simmons**, an American graduate student at SFU who would later sail on the *Phyllis Cormack* to Amchitka.

Among the fifteen people at the inaugural Sierra Club BC meeting were **Irving Stowe**, **Jim Bohlen** and **Bill Darnell**—the carpenter later credited with giving rise to the term Greenpeace.

The good guys won. The NDP administration of **Dave Barrett** designated the Cypress Bowl area as a provincial park soon after they were elected in 1972.

Concurrently, in 1969, approximately 7,000 people blocked the Peace Arch border crossing at Blaine to protest a proposed underground nuclear test near Amchitka Island, Alaska. They carried signs saying, "Don't Make A Wave. It's Your Fault If Our Fault Goes." This movement gave rise to the Don't Make A Wave Committee, led by Irving Stowe. Its outgrowth was



TJ WATT PHOTO

# Accolades, not blockades

The Sierra Club has been the number one game-changer in B.C. when it comes to preserving our wilderness

Greenpeace, formed three years after SCBC in 1972.

★  
A SECOND MAJOR CATALYST FOR THE GROWTH of the SCBC was the preservation of the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island, leading to the formation of another Sierra Club chapter on Vancouver Island. This occurred after a journalist at *The Vancouver Sun*, **John Twigg**, decided to take the six-day trail and write about it for *The Vancouver Sun*. He subsequently wrote one of the province's all-time bestsellers, *The West Coast Trail and Nitinat Lakes*, co-credited to SCBC mainstay **Ken Farquharson**.

Due to the frequency of shipwrecks and other maritime accidents on the turbulent West Coast of Vancouver Island, a rudimentary trail had long been required for emergencies. Originally known as the Dominion Lifesaving Trail, the path runs from Port Renfrew, on the south end, to Bamfield, on the north end. In 2015, the 77-kilometre West Coast Trail was ranked as the world's No. 1 hike by besthike.com. California's famous John Muir Trail was ranked second.

When Twigg later became press secretary to Dave Barrett during his NDP premiership, he was instrumental in the preservation of the West Coast Trail by lobbying the then Water Resources Minister **Bob Williams** of the NDP who negotiated the deal. The Sierra Club guidebook has since been updated and reprinted many times without credit to its original author—a fact that is absent from Pinch's text.

★  
THE SIERRA CLUB FIRST OPPOSED SHIPPING oil in Juan de Fuca Strait in 1973. SCBC opposition to the Trans Moun-

tain pipeline continues.

Ken Farquharson, a civil engineer who had worked on BC Hydro dams, was part of a 14-year, cross-border struggle with SPEC, the Alpine Club of Canada and the BC Wildlife Federation to successfully prevent flooding of the Skagit Valley, resulting in the Skagit River Treaty in 1984.

It was Farquharson who inspired **Ric Careless**, **Gordon Price** (later a Vancouver City Councillor) and members of the UVic Outdoors Club to form their own upstart chapter in Victoria, soon confronting Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, **Jean Chretien** and **Princess Anne** at a ceremony in Tofino with Save the Nitinat Triangle banners in 1971. Only eighteen months later—working with the BC Wilderness Federation, SPEC and the BC Federation of Naturalists—they succeeded in preventing BC Forest Products from logging the Nitinat area.

Careless claims this cooperative result was "the first environmental victory for wilderness in Canada." He went on to form and expand the Tatshenshini-Alsek, Spatsizi Plateau, Stikine River and Height of the Rockies wilderness areas, writing his own book, *To Save the Wild Earth*, in 1997.

★  
A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, THE SIERRA Report, first appeared in 1973, produced by volunteer editor **Geraldine Irby** for twenty-five years.

Sierra Club BC's first paid professional, **Bob Nixon**, has described the organization as a policy-oriented, advocacy-type organization, dealing largely with government and related industries.

"That's also called lobbying," he says. "We provide the best possible

information on a subject, say a land use situation, and point to the policy we believe ought to be followed. Second, the Sierra Club is committed to looking at the whole picture of environmental issues, which means the economics and social and labour aspects."

There are so many successful campaigns that they can't all be listed here. Here is a mere smattering of concerns from the Seventies and Eighties:

Prevent logging on South Moresby. Protect Fraser River estuary. Create Spatsizi Provincial Park. Prevent uranium mining in the Okanagan. Protect Cream Lake. Save the Stein River. Form Schoen Lake Provincial Park. Save Tsi-tika watershed. Preserve Robson Bight. Protect the Stikine. Oppose logging on Meares Island. Propose Khutzeymateen Ecological Reserve. Protest Site C dam. Establish Valhalla Park. Protest logging in Kitlope Valley. Master plan for Strathcona Park. Haley Lake Ecological Reserve. Establish South Moresby Reserve. Galloping Goose bike path. The Buy Good Wood campaign. Establish Carmanah Provincial Park. Create Pacific Spirit Park on UBC Lands.

Diane Pinch deserves collective thanks from all British Columbians along with a myriad of Sierra Club activists and writers (such as **Elizabeth May**, **Vicky Husband**, **Rosemary Fox**, **Terry Glavin**, **Scott Wallace**, **Sarah Cox**, **David Levy** and hundreds more).

Mostly the Sierra Club does not endorse nor engage in civil disobedience—sit-ins or blockades—or any form of violence or harassment. (One exception was sanctioning civil disobedience to protest the Keystone Pipeline in 2013 at the White House.)

*Passion & Persistence* reveals that the Sierra Club of BC has been enormously successful because it is committed to credibility.

You gotta do your homework.  
Diane Pinch was scheduled to receive the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness, sponsored by **Yosef Wosk**, at the Vancouver Public Library, 7 p.m., on June 25, but it has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Ryga judges were author **Trevor Carolan**, VPL librarian **Jane Curry** and BCBW publisher **Beverly Cramp**.

978-1-55017-881-4



# GUIDEBOOK

**Sharks, Skates, Rays and  
Chimera of British Columbia**  
by **Gordon McFarlane and Jackie King**  
(Royal BC Museum, \$24.95)



ifteen species of sharks have been observed in B.C. waters, along with seventeen species of skates and rays, and one species of chimera.

In their guide book, **Sharks, Skates, Rays and Chimera of British Columbia** scientists, Dr. **Jackie King** and Dr. **Gordon McFarlane** describe the chimera as “a weird-looking fish that seems a mash-up of several different species.”

There are about 47 species of chimeras (aka chimaeras) worldwide, varying in length and colour. With their tapered spines and large pectoral and pelvic fins, large eyes, two dorsal fins and a slender tail, they are also known as ratfish or ghost sharks.

There are more than 150 species of skates. Skates are different from rays because they lack a whip-like tail and stinging spines; and skates lay eggs, whereas rays give birth to live young.

The vast majority of sharks, according to King and McFarlane, “are cautious and placid, and many inhabit waters that exclude them from human contact.”



**Basking shark caught by fishermen off central British Columbia in July, 1901.**

creatures were killed.

Since the eradication program ended in 1970, basking sharks are still rarely seen in B.C. waters.

The eradication of larger sharks has been shown to have a cascading effect through the ecosystem as their prey populations expand explosively and deplete other animals lower in the ecosystem such as scallops, clams and

## Skate Canada

The vast majority of sharks are cautious and placid, according to **Jackie King & Gordan McFarlane.**

Sharks play a crucial role in the ecosystem, being apex predators feeding at the top of the food chain. There are exceptions, like the basking shark that feeds on plankton. With its large mouth for filtering plankton, the basking shark can suck in the equivalent of 10,000 bottles of plankton-filled

seawater in one hour.

Prior to the 1960s, basking sharks were plentiful until they started getting tangled in commercial fishers’ nets and became the subject of a directed eradication program. With fishery patrol boats outfitted with underwater knives, hundreds of these large gentle

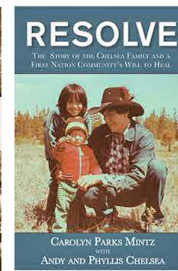
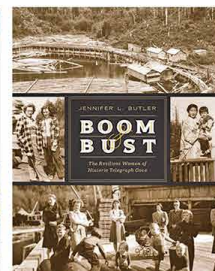
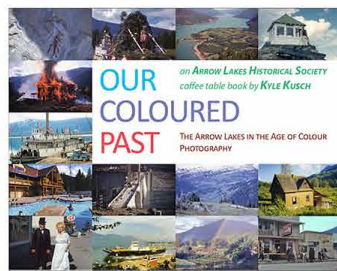
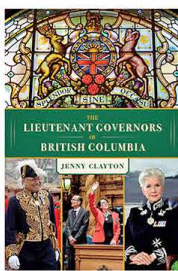
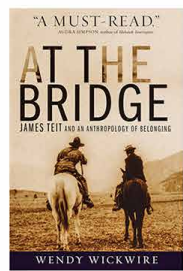
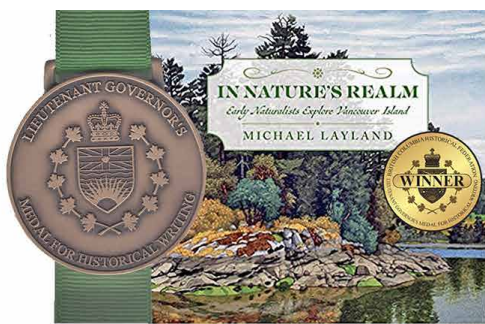
oysters.

This book therefore goes a long way to presenting sharks and their relatives as important creatures of the Pacific Northwest coastal waters, “worthy of respect, study, admiration and protection.”

Proceeds from this book are going to a conservation project, Predators in Peril. Because thousands of sharks are killed everyday for their meat, liver, oil, cartilage and fins, the Predators in Peril project involves working with shark fishermen and scientific researchers to obtain live images and video footage of rare, endangered or simply overlooked elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) both in their natural habitats and in the process of being captured.

978-0-7726-7335-0

## Winners of the 37th annual British Columbia Historical Federation Lieutenant Governor’s Historical Writing Awards



### The Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for Historical Writing (\$2,500)

**Michael Layland, In Nature’s Realm:**

**Early Naturalists Explore Vancouver Island** (Touchwood Editions).

A celebration of the richly diverse flora and fauna of Vancouver Island as explored through the records of explorers, settlers, and visitors, and with due respect to the wealth of Indigenous traditional knowledge of the island’s ecosystems. In Nature’s Realm gathers initial reports, recorded histories, and personal accounts left by Vancouver Island’s early naturalists who studied the region’s flora and fauna.

### 2nd prize (\$1,500)

**Wendy Wickwire, At the Bridge:**

**James Teit and an Anthropology of Belonging** (UBC Press)

### 3rd prize (\$500)

**Jenny Clayton, The Lieutenant Governors of BC**

(Harbour Publishing)

### Community History Award (\$500)

*Local and community history often provides the most sought-after information by historians researching a particular area.*

**Kyle Kusch, Our Coloured Past: The Arrow Lakes in the Age of Colour Photography** (Arrow Lakes Historical Society)

### Honourable mentions (alphabetical)

• **Jennifer L. Butler, Boom & Bust: The Resilient Women of Historic Telegraph Cove** (Touchwood Editions)

• **Carolyn Parks Mintz with Andy Chelsea and Phyllis Chelsea, Resolve: The Story of the Chelsea Family and a First Nation Community’s Will to Heal** (Caitlin Press)

• **Diane Pinch, Passion and Persistence: Fifty Years of the Sierra Club in British Columbia, 1969–2019** (Harbour Publishing)

British Columbia Historical Federation • [www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca)

**BCHF**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
HISTORICAL FEDERATION



**Road Trips:**  
**Journeys in the Unspoiled World**  
 by Trevor Carolan  
 (Mother Tongue Publishing \$21.95)

BY JOHN MOORE

**R**estrictions on travel in response to the world health emergency spawned by the COVID-19 virus will probably give a kick up the best-seller ladder to travel writing as self-isolating readers settle into their favourite chairs to vicariously hit the road in the company of veteran ramblers.

**Trevor Carolan's Road Trips: Journeys in the Unspoiled World**, should top the stack of everyone's Quarantine Reading List. The two dozen chapters are mostly brief, elegant essays, almost haiku-like in their reduction to essentials, but fired with a serious jolt of 'the creature', as they call moonshine in Ireland.

The stories in *Road Trips* dispel conventions of time and space, ranging from San Francisco in the Sixties to the Catholic-Solidarity revolution in Poland, from Nepal to Madrid, from Laos to Paris.

The constant in all these stories is the timeless-centered lives of people, whether they are French artists or Irish farmers, who live beyond the frenetic glare of neon lights and digital monitors, preserving values and skills that might actually save the world if the shit really does hit the fan.

Quite simply, it is time to give Carolan his due.

If you don't know him; let me introduce you.

Trevor Carolan has been a road-runner since he was 17 in the mid-1960s. In those days he wangled an assignment from his hometown *New Westminster Columbian* newspaper to report on the mysterious 'hippie' movement in San Francisco. A fan of Beat Generation writers who emerged in the Fifties—**Allen Ginsberg**, **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**, **Gary Snyder** and **Jack Kerouac**—Carolan hitch-hiked a thousand miles to get his story. It was the first of many shoestring journeys in search of what would prove to be just one part of a much longer, very ancient, on-going story.

While other young scribblers for underground newspapers of the time were carving out new niches in the trade, such as 'rock critic,' Carolan cut his own trail, eventually becoming Canada's pre-eminent 'Buddhist journalist,' freelancing articles on Buddhism, its influence on the Beats and their hipster descendants; and always traveling, looking for the story.

Along the Dharma Trail he met a lot of interesting people from the great circle of the Pacific Rim, which led him to him to editing three groundbreaking anthologies that introduced contemporary writing from the Far East to readers of the North American Far West on the other side of the pool. All worthwhile are *The Colors of Heaven: Short Stories from the Pacific Rim*, (Vintage-Random House, 1992), *Another Kind of Paradise: Short Stories from the New Asia-Pacific* (Cheng & Tsui, 2009), and *The Lotus Singers: Stories from Contemporary South Asia* (Cheng & Tsui, 2011).



Trevor Carolan  
 in the Agafay  
 region, Morocco,  
 with his wife  
 Kwangshik

# DHARMA BUMMING & Celtic thumbing

**Trevor Carolan** has come and gone a long way as a travel writer.

The route of Carolan's own writing was set by his first two books; *Closing the Circle*, a collection of poems published in 1985 by Heron Books, followed by *The Book of the Heart: Embracing the Tao* (with Bella Chen) (Heron, 1988), reissued by Shambala Publishing in 1990.

The freewheeling Celtic poet, descendant of famed itinerant Irish bard **Turlough O' Carolan**, as well as the philosopher-student of Buddhism, with its tradition of monkish mendicant

road-work, are parallel rails on which the Carolan train rides—a milk-run that stops at every out-of-the-way halt on the map and many that aren't.

I read his *Return to Stillness: 20 Years with a Tai Chi Master* (Marlowe & Co, 2003), while painting my house in bright sunshine and a spring wind. What could have been a drudging chore enlivened by sunburn and hypothermia was somehow transformed into a profound expression of the love I felt for my wife and children.

It took me awhile to figure out that the book I was reading during tea breaks had subtly rearranged my attitude. I often recall the Taoist saying I first encountered there: Tao resides in the hearth.

Carolan has a knack of sneaking up like the Ancient Mariner, telling a story out of the side of his mouth that changes your life, then vanishing in the crowd. His secret is that he never turns preachy but remains resolutely ecumenical, on the side of whatever works for the betterment of the world and the sense of community among its inhabitants.

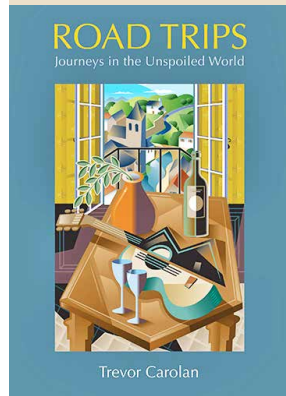
He follows the ancient spiritual practice of 'deep journeying', dodging the trap of glitzy all-inclusive resorts, accepting discomfort, disease, bugs, officious commissars and cops with equal aplomb to seek out and befriend people wherever he goes.

During his travels, Trevor Carolan has paid tribute to the following authors by visiting their graves, birth-places or former residences: Ryszard Kapuscinski, Leonard Cohen, Luís de Camões, John Keats, P.B. Virginia and Leonard Woolf, T.S. Eliot, Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, John Betjeman, The Bronte Sisters, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney Patrick Kavanagh, Louis MacNiece, Van Morrison, Máirtín Ó Direáin, Paul Verlaine, Artur Rimbaud, W.S. Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, Balzac, Brion Gysin, Jack Kerouac, Shakespeare, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Charles Baudelaire, Charles Péguy, Jim Morrison, Ernest Hemingway, Morley Callaghan, Henry Miller, Antonio Machado, Walter Benjamin, David Watmough, Peter Mayne, Mulk Raj Anand, Dylan Thomas, Dave Van Ronk, Bob Dylan, Milton Acorn, Somerset Maugham, Joseph Conrad and Paul Theroux.

978-1896949802

John Moore's latest book is *Rain City: Vancouver Essays* (Anvil Press, 2020).

▶ **Marrakesh is a red city**, baked brick walls, bustling, the minarets, the call to prayer. Hamdullillah. On the boulevards it feels as if you haven't shaved for days; always there's a little grit under your nails. This is a place of curious dreams, coffee, clouds of strong tobacco. We hire a Jeep to take us into the Atlas Mountains. South of the city where things turn dry quickly, Ali our driver veers off the road and pounds across rugged country. "I will take you where no tourist ever goes," he says, hammering the motor along a terrifying precipice cut above a sheer-drop gorge of great height. We are in a mystic landscape, ashen with fear. Ali relishes our terror. Finally, we emerge from the chasm and surge higher yet with a massive white range of peaks behind us...




We aim for the caravan trails across the dunes. Ali takes us out to an oasis hamlet with its herds of sheep, donkeys, tough quiet shepherd, home-spun tents.

I ask in a scrabble of French, "What does 'Sahara' mean in your language?"

Ali looks at the endless rolling hills and dunes, laughs with a Berber friend, and responds: "Emptiness..."

— **Road Trips: Journeys in the Unspoiled World**  
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THEATRE

REVIEW



Charles Tidler

# As you were saying

Charles Tidler's 'micro dramas' have the ring of real-life conversations he's overheard and written into dialogues.

7eventy 7even: 77 Found Micro Dramas  
by Charles Tidler (Ekstasis \$23.95)

W

riters are, by necessity, nosy and often listen in on other people's conversations, later jotting down snippets for future use. Writing good dialogue is one of the trickiest things they do. Bad dialogue can, and usually does, turn off a reader no matter how good the plot or scenes. Documenting authentic speech for literary use is one way to write dialogue that has the ring of truth.

The question is, how to use 'found' dialogue? Leave in all the 'ums and 'ers; the starting, stopping, and re-starting of sentences; the slang; the obscenities?

Victoria writer, **Charles Tidler's** latest book, **7eventy 7even: 77 Found Micro Dramas** shows he's been listen-

ing. His micro drama dialogues contain philosophizing, debates and relationship psychology in everyday language.

One of his male characters says, "Call my ex-wife if you want." She replies, "I already did."

Some of the dramas are complex and puzzling. His 'young woman at bistro' tells her male companion, "You're not going to sit beside me." The man moves to a seat across from her, asking, "Did you have anything in mind?"

With 77 micro dramas in 100 pages, Tidler's dialogues are quickly read, entertaining and thought-provoking. His playwriting skills, developed over several decades, are evident in his scenes that engage the imagination with seeming effortlessness.

Charles Tidler grew up in Indiana, moved to the West Coast in 1969 and now lives in Victoria. He has won National Radio Awards and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. His second novel was *Hard Hed* (Anvil Press, 2011).

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# One-night stands

**Katherine Fawcett’s** stories are zany and fun—until they’re not.

As her follow-up collection of stories to her debut volume, *The Little Washer of Sorrows* (Thistledown, 2015), **Katherine Fawcett’s *The Swan Suit*** contains a story called “East O” in which we are introduced to the last egg to hang out in East Ovary. We discover how eggs pass their time while they await their turn to go down the chute.

**The Swan Suit by Katherine Fawcett**  
(Douglas & McIntyre \$22.95)

BY **CHERIE THIESSEN**

In the title story, “The Swan Suit,” we get to know a troll, a few witches and a remarkable black cat called Thunder who communicates with the witches. Pass the time with the beautiful maiden who emerges from her swan suit for a daily dip, just don’t fall in love with her.

And while we’re on the subject of love, in “The Devil and Miss Nora” we wonder if the devil can really be so easily fooled by the coy marketing skills of an attractive woman.

In “Ham,” Fawcett also introduces us to Ham. His Chinny-Chin-Chin ‘natural foods’ enterprise has paid off. And now this porcine protagonist is about to make dumpster diving his next commercial venture.

Diverse as these characters or creatures are, all Fawcett’s stories share an affinity of liveliness, inventiveness and quirkiness. It’s not all sweetness and light.

In “Nasal Cannula,” we hang out with Carmen and her ailing father, Anton, master of the corniest jokes you ever heard. Although this story resonates with real-life dilemmas (those heart-rending decisions about what to do when ageing parents can’t live independently anymore and don’t want to recognize it), there are smiles along the way, too.

Still darker... in “Crumble,” we seemingly become acquainted with an abused wife and mother, Karina, as well as her diary entries, her friend, and her two children whom she is trying to protect. Readers may experience a chill as the story unzips to reveal another Karina.

Fawcett’s characters and plots may seem whimsical with fairy-tale characters like Rapunzel and the Three Little Pigs—but invariably there are transformations afoot. A swan becomes a maiden and then a wolf. A man steps out of his skin to become a sheep on a day when his hot shot mother is craving lamb.

These stories are zany and fun—until they’re not.

Whereas stories such as “The Swan Suit” made me laugh out loud and “The Devil and Miss Nora” had me smiling, “Nasal Cannula” cut to the bone and “Crumble” made me shudder.

“The Pull of Old Rat Creek” appeared in *Exile’s* annual short fiction anthology. “Happy?” appeared in *Grain*. “Maternal Instinct of Witches”, “What the Cat Coughed Up”, “Mary Wonderful’s

New Grimoire” and “Fluidity” (under the title Warm Fluids) were published in *Pique*.

★  
KATHERINE FAWCETT DESCRIBES SHORT fiction in terms of “one-night stands.”

In a blog called ‘Why Short Stories Matter,’ she writes, “The short story is an intense, passionate love affair. Every word counts; every sentence must be perfect and purposeful. It is a narrative that won’t last—the author damn well better make each fleeting moment count.”

The title story, “The Swan Suit,” is a good story to head up the anthology because it contains elements that comprise her distinctive style: humour, disguises, fantasy, fate, irony and sudden intakes of breath.

“It was also one of the most fun to write,” Fawcett told *BC BookWorld*, “I like how *The Swan Suit* takes on the concept of attraction, betrayal, truth, beauty, transformation and identity. These are all concepts that are explored further in other stories.”

Born in Montreal, raised in Calgary, Fawcett now lives in Squamish and has taught music in Whistler. The University of Calgary graduate has also played violin with the Sea to Sky Orchestra. She has lived in Japan, Canmore and Yellowknife before coming to B.C.

“I like the ‘what if?’ prompt,” she says of how she begins her stories. “I like to take things to the extreme.”

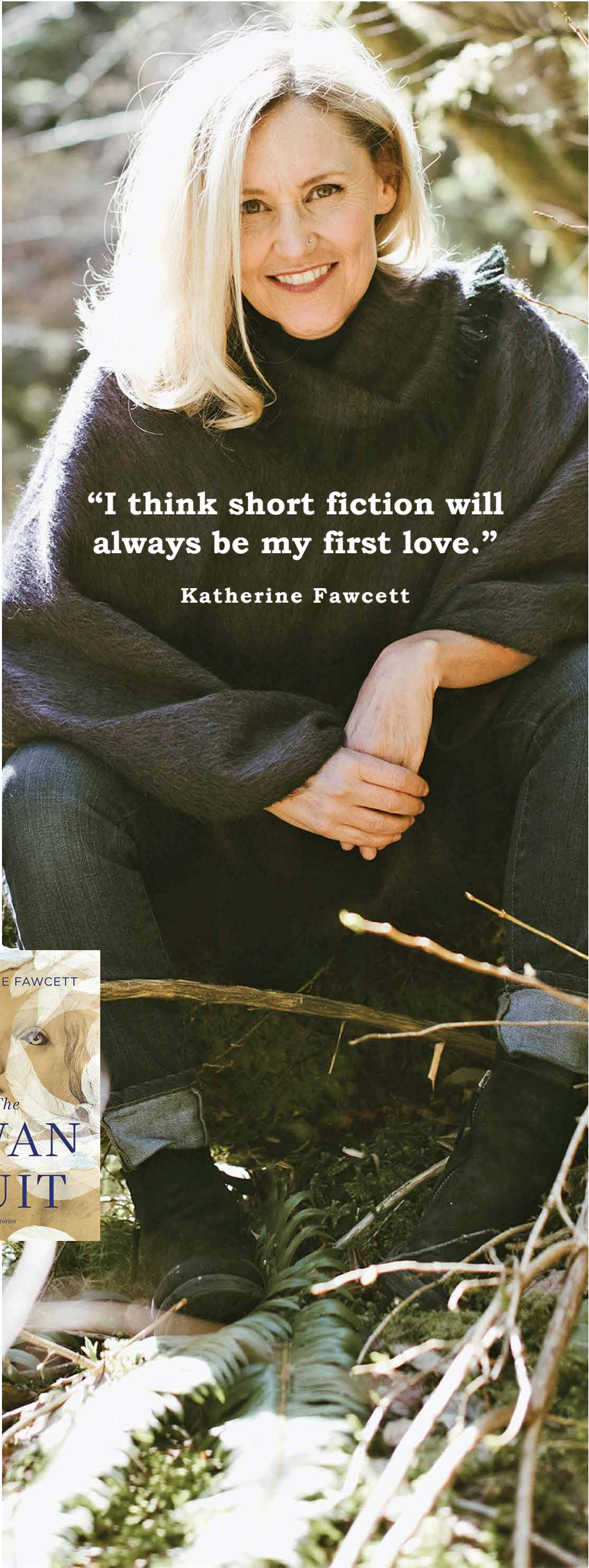
Fawcett is now playing around with writing a novel based on the idea of the various ways we are held prisoner, and what it may take to become free. “But I’m constantly distracted by shiny things that I like to polish into short stories,” she says. “At this rate, a novel could take a long, long time.

“I think short fiction will always be my first love. I like the freedom, beauty, fun and intensity of a short story. A novel is a big commitment—for both reader and writer. Of course, this is a wonderful, rewarding commitment that can be one of life’s greatest pleasures. But if a book is a month, a short story is a day, a slice, and an opportunity; something to be shared around a campfire.

“There’s an intensity—hopefully a kind of breathlessness in such sharing.”

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*Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.*





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# POETRY

REVIEW

## Desertification poems

Writing and pictures that speak to alienation and dispossession in the time of nuclear weapons proliferation.

**Pots and Other Living Beings**  
by annie ross (Talonbooks \$19.95)

**S**FU professor of First Nations Studies, **annie ross's** debut collection of poems, **Pots and Other Living Beings** combines her poetry with selected photographs to describe postmodern life—with an emphasis on disillusionment, failed utopias and dispossessions.

Ross gathered the photographs, along with field notes, while on a research trip to the southwest United States where she explored the foundations and proliferation of nuclear weapons since the 1940s. The resulting poems are a condemnation of the bleak after-effects of the impact of the West's industrial military complex.

In her poem *fix it*, ross writes of a desert highway: "swarm of Grasshoppers / looking for dinner, yes? / if i had anything, i would give it to you / no one planted, i didn't / how hot can it be / did we do this? / mercilessly, we did this. / the long meandering highway / stares blankly at the Sky / what, here for a Wolf to eat? / the sign reads, good beefjerky, thirty-four miles ahead / everything is always / somewhere else"

Ross's writing also reflects on the material and cultural world that could have been, if only efforts had been focused on life-giving efforts rather than war and overdevelopment.

On her SFU website entry, ross describes herself as the, "daughter of

annie ross  
**Pots and Other Living Beings**



a strong traditional Maya mother and auntie and WWII veteran storyteller father (Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia)." She adds that she, "began education at home with plants, animals, art, Indigenous hand work, storytelling, and history in Compton, California, from parents dispossessed of their traditional lands." 978-1-77201-236-1



AFTER A DISABLING CONCUSSION, **Kyla Jamieson** recounts her life before and after the accident in **Body Count**

(Nightwood \$18.95), a debut collection of poems about her perceptions, her disconnectedness and social media; as well as romance and pleasure. It's touted as, "One part rape culture protest anthem, one part long-distance love story, one part invisible illness testimony, and 100% epistolary intimacy." 978-0-88971-370-3



Kyla Jamieson

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A CURIOUS HAPPINESS  
IN SMALL THINGS

POEMS BY DAVID HAGGART



# They are family

A transgendered boy finds acceptance and friends at a boxing gym.

**Blood Sport** by Tash McAdam  
(Orca Soundings \$9.95)

About to age out of foster care, transgendered Jason Ross (Jane) planned to be taken in by his sister Becca. But four months before he turns 18, the police inform him she has died of an overdose.

Jason doesn't believe Becca could have overdosed. "She never did drugs, not ever," he yells at one of his care workers. Now one of the biggest bullies in the group home, Derek, along with



Tash McAdam

other teens, tease Jason about it. "Yo, Jase, saw the pigs come by again. Did they solve your sister's murder yet?" Derek taunts. Going through Becca's two boxes of belongings—the only things she owned—Jason discovers she had been collecting reports of missing girls. Jason also finds a shadowy Polaroid picture of a boxing gym, Ray's Place. He believes this will help him solve his sister's murder. Jason tracks down the gym and gets invited in. He hasn't boxed before but he's been in lots of fights. "Being trans usually means someone wants to smash your face in," Jason says. Even his parents fought about his transgen-

dered state before his mom died and before his dad became an alcoholic and overdosed. After that, no one cared about Jason's split lips and black eyes except Becca. But the guys at the boxing gym are welcoming to Jason and he signs up. After the first session, Jason is tired and sweaty but feels good and decides to keep coming back. Soon, Jason builds friendships at the gym. They accept him as a transgendered person. "Our cousin's non-binary trans," says Sunny, one of Jason's new supporters, meaning that Sunny's cousin doesn't use his or her pronouns but rather the neutral they or them.

"My uncle kicked them out, but we still see them sometimes. We've met some of their friends. Their boyfriend is a trans guy. So, like, we get it. It's cool. You do you. No big," says Sunny. Jason decides to enter a boxing tournament representing Ray's Place, getting encouragement from his new-found friends. Just as Jason is feeling true acceptance, he discovers that the manager of the gym has something of his sister Becca's—a USB. Thinking the USB contains evidence relating to his sister's death, Jason steals it. Before he can look at its contents, however, his care worker confiscates it. The USB will only be returned if Jason starts doing better at school. Jason is on his best behavior, attending classes every day and going to the gym in the evenings. He wins gold at the tournament and, for the first time in his life, the black eye and bruised jaw he sustains feel good—"The marks feel like medals." But his real name, Jane, has been discovered. And the gym manager has figured out who stole Becca's USB and confronts Jason in the change room. Jason uses his fighting skills to get away. His friends come to his assistance and eventually get the police involved who arrest the gym manager. Not only does Jason help discover Becca's murderer and a human trafficking gang, in the end he realizes he has a new 'family' and a surprising new home. **Blood Sport** author **Tash McAdam** identifies as trans and queer and uses the neutral pronoun they. They teach high-school English (and knows how to defend that grammar). They also have a couple of black belts in karate.

9781459824362

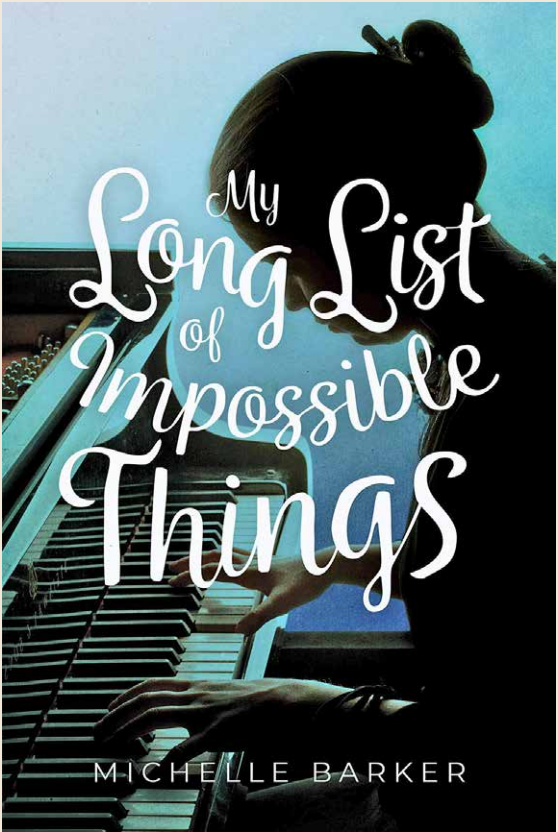
# Make yourself invisible

**My Long List of Impossible Things** by Michelle Barker  
(Annick Press \$12.95)

Katja is a 16-year-old German girl and an aspiring concert pianist with her dreams still intact; her sister Hilde is 18 and holds out hope that her fiancé Paul will return now that the Second World War is over, in **My Long**

**List of Impossible Things** by **Michelle Barker**. But then Russian soldiers in control of the area give the sisters ten minutes to leave their family home. With nothing but small packs on their backs containing some food and a few clothes, they begin walking to a city where their mother says distant family friends might take them in. Trying to stay away from bombs, bullets, and marauding Russians, they take lesser travelled roads and sleep in barns or wherever they can get out of harm's way. Dead bodies fill the ditches they walk past. Katja repeats her mother's (Mutti) lesson, which has protected her and Hilde for the past five years since the war began: "Don't speak out, don't touch anything, make yourself invisible." But the gutsy Katja has a hard time not speaking her mind when she sees injustice and cruelty—judgements that are often hard to make in the collapsed society in which she and Hilde are forced to steal and connive just to get by in the midst of violence, corruption, and uncertainty. They go unwashed for weeks and their clothes and shoes wear out. But it is hard to get replacements. "No one ever imagined the world could stop working all of a sudden, that shops would have nothing in them and money would be worthless," says Katja. "But anything could happen. Nothing

In 1945 Germany, two sisters must find their way to safety in the mayhem of bombed out cities and Russian occupying forces.



was guaranteed." In such a world of hardship, Katja begins making lists in her head of what she really wants, such as: "my piano, obviously; to go home again; a new pair of shoes; rabbit stew, oh rabbit stew—the way Mutti made it, turning it into a feast, with sauces and braised this and sautéed that. I imagined us sitting at the dining room table with her favourite Schumann Lieder playing on the radio and the midday sun shining right on her pretty coffee set. Eat your fill, girls, she would say. We would eat so much we'd have to nap afterward." In a fit of anger one day, Katja makes some bad decisions that imperil those around her. Can she protect her sister Hilde and still do the right thing? Or will she have to betray friends closest to her? ★ **MICHELLE BARKER** SAYS, "THERE ARE NO SIMPLE ANSWERS in Katja's situation; there are not meant to be." Barker adds that her heroine's viewpoint is coloured by both how she was raised and her limited understanding of what actually happened during the war. "I believe it is easy to read history with the benefit of hindsight and insert ourselves into roles of hero and heroine. Easy, but not honest. I could have made Katja more heroic, but then I believe she would not have had as much to say to us." Barker's mother grew up in Germany during the war and her stories influenced this novel. Barker's mother converted to Judaism, married a Jewish man, and raised Barker and her brothers in the Jewish faith. "To me that is a beautiful symbol of the impossible becoming the possible," says Barker.

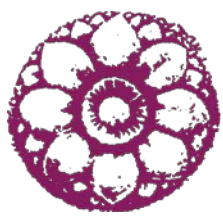


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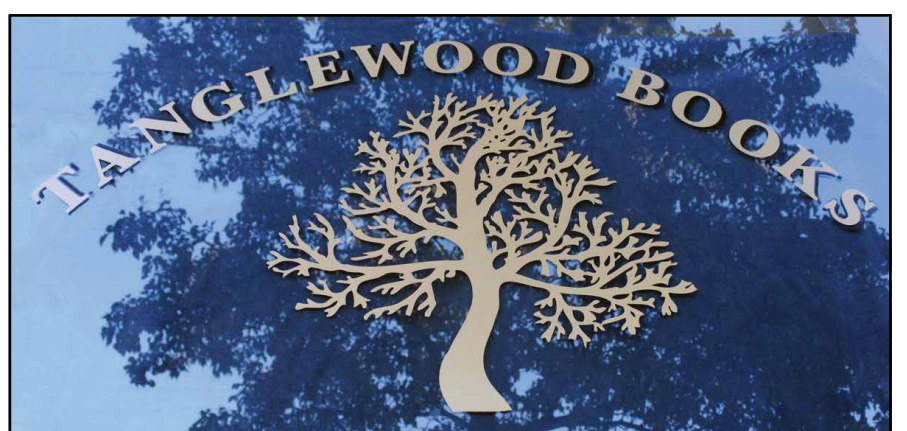
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**Secrets in the Shadows**  
by **Heige Boehm**  
(Ronsdale \$14.95)

# A dark legacy

**B**orn more than two decades after WWII ended and living alongside a major thoroughfare in Cologne, **Heige Boehm** was often awakened at night by the roar of military vehicles during the first nine years of her life. (The Cold War brought military activity that continued in Europe for many years after the end of WWII.) Her sisters found a hiding place in their basement where they imagined a Jewish family had hidden.

And when Boehm's family visited relatives in the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany), she saw the ruins of many bombed-out buildings and walls with still-visible bullet holes.

Only when she emigrated to Canada with her parents could Boehm begin to ask questions about Nazi Germany. She needed to know how "37 percent of ordinary German people chose to elect a racist dictator. And why this nation of civilized people supported a mad man's desire for world domination."

Now Boehm has published a debut novel for young people, **Secrets in the Shadows**, motivated by the fact that her father had been a young boy when Hitler rose to power in the early 1930s. Her story follows two boys in Nazi Germany who initially believe that life can be a glorious adventure until they must fight on the frontlines and grasp the reality of Hitler's propaganda and the horrors of anti-Semitism.



IN NOVEMBER OF 1934, SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Michael Boii has a seemingly idyllic life in a small farming community in Germany. The local baker, Frau Bummel, gives him a donut on his way home from school. Blond-haired, he brags to her that doctors at his school have told him that he is a perfect Aryan.

Later, Michael witnesses one of his mother's friends, Frau Silberstein, being harassed by older Hitlerjugend kids—the violent youth wing of the Nazi Party. They yell "Jude," at her. He doesn't think much about it. Two of his older brothers are in the Hitlerjugend and his older sisters both belong to the League of German Girls (BDM).

Michael dreams about getting a letter from **Adolf Hitler**, "summoning me to join Deutsches Jungvolk. Papa would be proud of me then." He runs through a farmer's field yelling, "I'm special!" His father, an SS (Nazi paramilitary organization) officer, is pleased by the doctors' assessment.

But in a hazelnut tree grove, where he and his best friend 'Wolfie' play with home-made bows and arrows, Herr Zimmerman, a farmer who has a wooden leg from injuries suffered in World War I, is not at all impressed with Michael's news about being pronounced special. "Complete and utter nonsense!" he says. "Special? You're more like that Schwarzkopfiges sheep over there."

Michael's oldest brother has a stutter. The school expels him to be sent

Motivated by her need to understand how her father and her ancestral home of Germany could have supported **Adolf Hitler** and the Nazi regime, **Heige Boehm** has written *Secrets in the Shadows* from a German boy's perspective.



**Heige Boehm and her little sister, Cecil in Germany. Heige Boehm today (above right).**



gory sights and carnage. "Along the roadside, dead soldiers lay with their eyes open and mouths gaping, their bodies torn open and their guns still at their sides.

"We began picking up the dead and draping their bodies over the jeeps. The wounded cried out for help, and we tended to them the best we could, although the only thing we could do for now was put them on the tanks to take them with us."

As Germany starts losing the war and has to retreat, honour is lost. Captured soldiers are shot and not taken prisoner. Michael throws up at the sight of an American tank being blown up. "The blast tore through the Sherman like a warm knife through butter, and the men running behind the tank scattered, looking for cover. The Sherman's turret popped open,

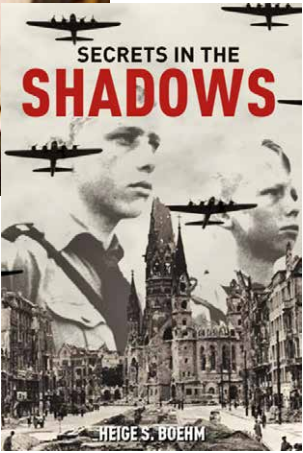
one crewman spilled out, another followed, his clothes on fire and his right leg smoldering where it had been blown off just above the knee."

By December, 1944, Michael is officially 'strategically retreating.' Making their way back to their home village is vicious and grueling but Michael and Wolfie get back alive. Two brothers and one

sister are dead; their heroic father is on the run to Argentina. "We came home, Mama," are his last words in the book.

Because *Secrets in the Shadows* involves a teen protagonist, it is being marketed as a Young Adult title, but adults will enjoy the story too.

Heige Boehm holds a writing certificate from Simon Fraser University and is working on a follow-up novel.



to a home for lunatics where children often disappear. Michael's parents quarrel about it because his mother doesn't want her son to go away. Michael's father slaps his wife several times, which the children witness from upstairs.



FIVE YEARS LATER, MICHAEL NOW ATTENDS regular meetings of Deutsches Jungvolk. He promises his mother he will pick up his 14-year-old sister Paula from her BDM meeting after his event. Michael gets distracted by a snowball fight with his friend, Wolfie, and arrives late for his sister who is being raped by two, older Hitlerjugend teens. Michael

intervenes and kills one of the rapists; the other runs off.

Bucolic village life has been a façade. But when the war is officially announced, Michael is mesmerized by the Nazi propaganda proclaiming the Aryan nation will soon take over the world and establish a world-wide German government called the 'Third Reich.' His father says to him, "Boy, you're lucky to be alive in such exciting times!"

Michael's father orders him to go into combat training at age 16. He and Wolfie are sent to France, marching through battle areas strewn with



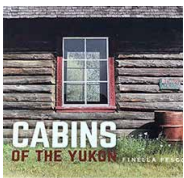
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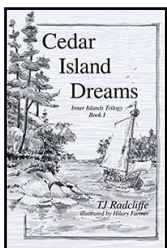
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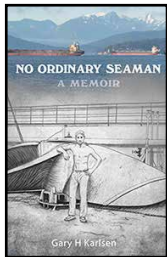
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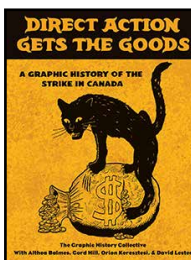
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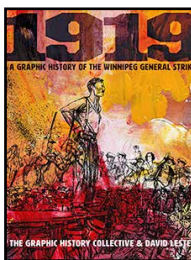
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# LETTERS

## Love throwing

I just finished reading Sage Birchwater's review of *Resolve: The Story of the Chelsea Family and a First Nation Community's Will to Heal* (Caitlin Press) and thought it was such a good review I had to throw some love his way. I might be on a bit of a roll here, but John Moore's review of *Primary Obsession* (D&M) is also well written. Congratulations.

John Hamilton  
Prince George

## Go digital

I absolutely LOVED your paper when I grabbed it for the first time on the BC Ferries last year. I've been holding onto it constantly since. I'd love to have more but I live in an RV and have little space to keep my books, just two cupboards. (You can imagine that's a challenge for a reader.) I keep referring back to your issue for information, and there's too much good in it for me to write lots of notes, I'd have to copy so much of the paper.

I was wondering if you could please consider publishing a PDF edition of it as well? That way I could get access to all your issues (I live very remotely on the West of the Island so I can only get a copy when I get out, once in a very long while) and I could keep all of them! Since they take up no physical space on my computer. Will you please consider it?

Thank you so much and looking forward to hearing from you, stay safe and healthy at this time,

Coral L.

Vancouver Island

[BC BookWorld is available digitally at [BCBookLook.com](http://BCBookLook.com) (back issues at [abcbookworld.com](http://abcbookworld.com))]

## Literary treats

I left my copy of *BC BookWorld* on my porch for a week, just in case. I just brought it in yesterday. Such a treat! Alan Twigg's new book looks great! I was reading the article on Dr. Louise Aall with interest and then realized he had written the book, not the article. Can't wait to read it. Also loved Alice Munro and Margaret Atwood pic, and that feature about hotels along the E&N line...and more!

EJ Hurst

Gabriola Island

## Indigenous essentials

I am a longtime, avid reader of *BC Bookworld*. I have been delighted over the past few years over your increasing coverage of titles by Indigenous authors and Indigenous subjects. Thank you. So, I was quite astonished that your review of "The

Afrikaner" ended with your reviewer referencing five settler authors who "North Americans have gleaned a deeper awareness of South Africa through." Though Stephen Biko and Nelson Mandela are mentioned, they are cited only as subjects of books by South African settlers. Though I appreciate some of the authors mentioned, the works of Indigenous South African writers are essential (!) in developing any true understanding of South Africa. Some of my favourites include Bessie Head, Miriam Tlali, Zakes Mda as well as Nelson Mandela's autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*.

K.L. Kivi  
New Denver

## Hang in there

It's a good time to remind people what a valuable part of the world you are. I hope you can make it through the

virus situation healthy and intact. We are all experiencing new and different stresses these days. Like the liquor stores, ours has been meeting public demand for the product. We are all reading more, too—I hope. And *BC BookWorld* is always a good read in itself. Keep up the good work and hang in there.

Tristan & Yoka  
Yoka's Coffee, Victoria

## Made my day

I saw the piece you did on my book, *The Jigsaw Puzzle King*, in the Spring edition of *BC BookWorld*. At this time of isolation, it was so appreciated to know that your magazine is going out to people, particularly in its online form, and letting them know about it. I had hoped for more opportunities to get out and promote this new book and for all the obvious reasons can't do any in-person promotion. But it made my day to see my book getting recognition in your fine magazine. Thank you so much for this support and I wish you all continued success.

Gina McMurchy-Barber  
White Rock

# OBITS

## Neil Sterritt (1941–2020)

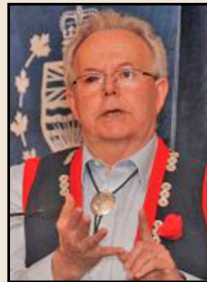
Neil J. Sterritt, winner of the BC Book Prizes' 2017 Roderick Haig-Brown Prize for the best book to contribute to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia for, *Mapping My Way Home: A Gitxsan History* (Creekstone

2016), died in Williams Lake on April 9, 2020.

Born and raised in Hazelton, Sterritt's hereditary name was **Madiigam Gyamk**, from the Gitxsan House of Gitluudaahlxw.

He earned a mining diploma from BCIT and worked for various mining companies; and later for the Gitxsan-Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council, Assembly of First Nations and with countless First Nations communities and organizations throughout B.C. and the Yukon.

During the precedent-setting aboriginal rights case, *Delgamuukw v. The Queen*, 1987-1990, he spent 34 days on the stand as an expert witness defending the knowledge of



Gitxsan Elders and leaders.

In *Mapping My Way Home*, Sterritt traced the history of the area at the junction of the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers, the resiliency of the First Nations residents who have maintained the villages of Gitanmaax and Hazelton,

as well as his own personal story of growing up in Hazelton and helping his people fight the Delgamuukw court case. His overview stretches from the creation tales of Wiigyet to the advent of oil and gas pipeline proposals, including tales of the Madiigam Ts'uuii Aks (supernatural grizzly of the waters), the founding of Gitanmaax, Kispiox and Hagwilget and the coming of the fur traders, miners, packers, missionaries and telegraphers.

Stephen Hume calls Sterritt's account "remarkable, unique and articulate history...a powerful, accessible and cultural tour de force. It deserves to be on every British Columbian's bookshelf."

## Ken Belford (1946–2020)

Poet and environmentalist, **Ken Belford** died on February 19 in Prince George. Belford published ten books of poetry and more than a dozen chapbooks. His relationship to the land deeply informed his poetics.

"Ken was one of the old-style, self-taught poets like **Al Purdy**, **Patrick Lane** and **John Newlove** who forged his art outside the academy and drew on the experience of work and the life of the street for his inspiration," says **Howard White**, who published Belford's fifth collection of poetry, *ecologue* (Harbour, 2005). White adds that Belford, "reworked and polished his poems tirelessly, striving for a gem-like concentration of expression."

Poet and anthologist **Gary Geddes** compared Belford's poems about being in and out of work to **Milton Acorn's**, "[combining] intelligence and an awkward, almost lumbering grace."

While some found Belford intimidating in person, White says among his friends, "he was a great conversationalist who could drink, tell stories and shoot pool all night."

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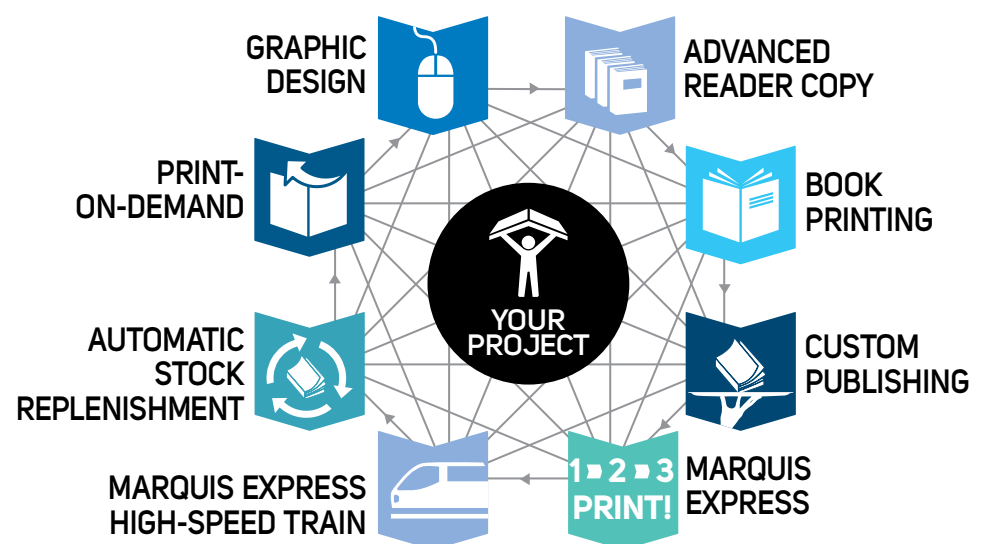
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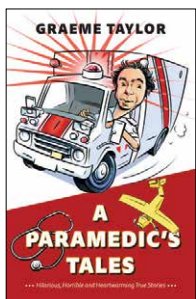


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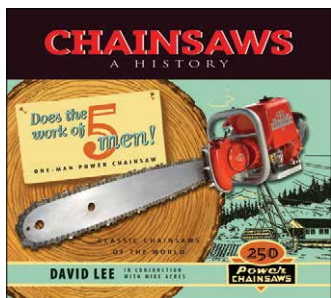


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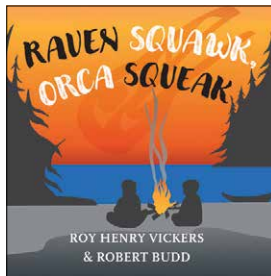
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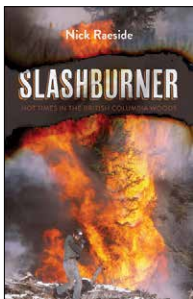
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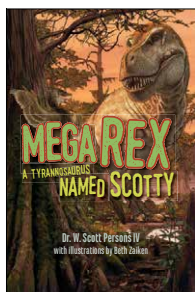


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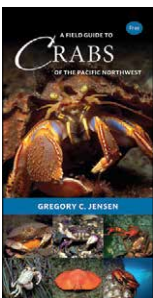


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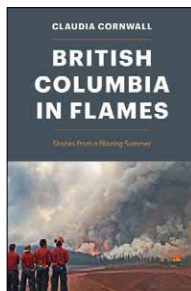
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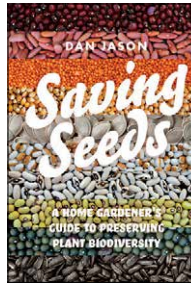


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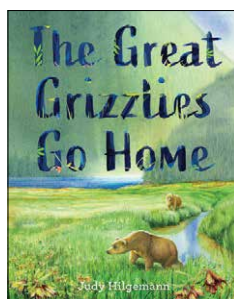


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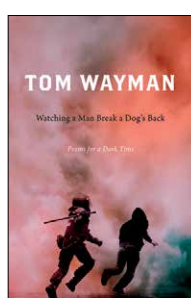
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