The BIG league

CHRISTINA MYERS looks at body shapes.

Plus-sized living in a society that favours thinness.
Review page 7

JILLIAN CHRISTMAS
Courageous poems that matter and resonate. 3

LOGAN MACNAIR
The story of a stutterer who ghostwrites for a politician. 29

EVELYN LAU
Brave beautiful poetry about life with depression. 33
“I’m gutted by his brilliant mind.”
—CHERIE DIMALINE, author of Empire of Wild and The Marrow Thieves

“Puts the reader at the centre of a deeply serious struggle—with language, with sexuality, with race and colonial Canada, and with love and joy and a life in art.”
—SHEILA HETI, author of Motherhood and How Should a Person Be?

“An NDN love story that will stop you in your tracks.”
—LEANNE BETASAMOSAKE SIMPSON author of This Accident of Being Lost

The youngest winner of the Griffin Prize, Billy-Ray Belcourt is a critically acclaimed and award-winning author from the Driftpile Cree Nation, and Assistant Professor of Indigenous Creative Writing at UBC.
So, a divorce lawyer walks into a rabbi’s office...

**INCANTATORY ACTIVISM**

spoken word activist Jillian Christmas’ poems are expressive of her family history, queer lineage, and “the political landscape of a racialized life.”

In response to Jillian Christmas’ first book, *The Gospel of Breaking* (Arsenal Pulp $14.95), novelist David Chariandy described her spoken word texts as “incantatory and disarming, sensitive and cerebral, fiercely defiant and courageously tender.”

In an interview with Rob Taylor for Read Local, she said, “On the page, that immediate feedback is absent, but there is still opportunity to create an arc, a flow that moves the reader from one emotional landscape to another. As for the applause, I have an excellent imagination.”

Jillian Christmas, who teaches poetry through word play exercises and whose work often focuses on anti-oppression initiatives, has developed programs and workshops in partnership with Vancouver Opera, Wordplay, Brendan McLeod’s Travelling Slam, CULTCH Mentorship and the Museum of Anthropology (UBC).

Born and raised in Markham, Ontario, with lineage from Trinidad and Tobago, Christmas has served for six years as Artistic Director of Verses Festival of Words. Her writing has appeared in *Huffington Post*, *Plenitude*, *The Post Feminist Post* and *The Great Black North* anthology edited by Valerie Mason-John and Kevan Anthony Cameron.


**BC TOP SELLERS**

- **Monique Gray Smith & Julie Flett**
  - *My Heart Fills With Happiness* (Orca $10.95)
- **Evelyn Lau**
  - *Pineapple Express* (Anvil Press $18)
- **Frédérick Lalonde**
  - *Orwell in Cuba: How 1984 Came to Be Published in Castro’s Twilight* (Talonbooks $19.95)
- **Iona Whitshaw**
  - *A Match Made for Murder: A Lane Winslow Mystery* (TouchWood $16.95)
- **Susan Smith-Josephy**
  - *At The Bridge* (New Society Press $22.95)
- **Charles Ulrich**
  - *The Big Note: A Guide to the Recordings of Frank Zappa* (New Star $45)
- **Colleen MacDonald**
  - *Let’s Go Biking: Marketing Your Daily Life* (Sandhill Book Marketing $19.95)
- **Wendy Wickwire**
  - *At The Bridge: James Teit and an Anthropology of Belonging* (UBC Press $34.95)
- **Jillian Christmas**
  - *Orca Squeak* (Orca $10.95)
- **Iona Whishaw**
  - *There’s a Pineapple Express in My Living Room* (Anvil Press $14.95)

**BC BOOKWORLD**

- Autumn 2020
- Volume 34 • Number 3
- Publisher: Beverly Cramp
- Editor/Production: David Lester
- BC BookWorld ISSN: 1701-5405
- Publications Mail Registration No. 7800.
- Published with the sponsorship of Pacific BookWorld News Society.

We gratefully acknowledge the unobtrusive assistance of Canada Council, a continuous partner since 1988, and creativebc, a provincial partner since 2014.
Ekstasis Editions: celebrating 38 years of publishing: a milestone for the imagination!

**Swamped**
Manolis
ISBN 978-1-77171-392-4
Fiction 276 pages $25.95

**Replay 1943-1965**
Stephen Scofield
ISBN 978-1-77171-394-8
Poetry 92 pages $23.95

**Voicing Suicide**
Edited by Daniel G. Scott
ISBN 978-1-77171-376-4
Poetry Anthology 102 pages $24.95

**The Eleventh Hour**
Carolyn Marie Squid
ISBN 978-1-77171-400-6
Poetry 89 pages $23.95

**Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement**
J. J. Steinfield
Poetry 135 pages $23.95

**Repairing the Hive**
Linda Rogers
ISBN 978-1-77171-303-0
Fiction 293 pages $25.95

**Impromptu**
Jude Neale
ISBN 978-1-77171-358-0
Poetry 92 pages $23.95

**Songs of the North**
Deborah L. Kelly
Poetry 100 pages $23.95

**To Measure the World**
Karen Shenfield
Poetry 56 pages $23.95

**Voicing Suicide**
Edited by Daniel G. Scott
ISBN 978-1-77171-376-4
Poetry Anthology 102 pages $24.95

**Quarters**
Frances Pope
ISBN 978-1-77171-380-1
Poetry 70 pages $23.95

**Impromptu**
Jude Neale
ISBN 978-1-77171-358-0
Poetry 92 pages $23.95

**Songs of the North**
Deborah L. Kelly
Poetry 100 pages $23.95

**Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement**
J. J. Steinfield
Poetry 135 pages $23.95

**In Praise of Small Mistakes**
Lesley Choys
Poetry 89 pages $23.95

**Sleep With Me**
Janet Vickers
Poetry 84 pages $23.95

**Haiku in Canada**
Terry Ann Carter
Non-Fiction/Poetry 170 pages $23.95

**Voicing Suicide**
Edited by Daniel G. Scott
ISBN 978-1-77171-376-4
Poetry Anthology 102 pages $24.95

**To Measure the World**
Karen Shenfield
Poetry 56 pages $23.95

**Songs of the North**
Deborah L. Kelly
Poetry 100 pages $23.95

**Sleep With Me**
Janet Vickers
Poetry 84 pages $23.95

**In Praise of Small Mistakes**
Lesley Choys
Poetry 89 pages $23.95

**Songs of the North**
Deborah L. Kelly
Poetry 100 pages $23.95

**Impromptu**
Jude Neale
ISBN 978-1-77171-358-0
Poetry 92 pages $23.95

**Impromptu**
Jude Neale
ISBN 978-1-77171-358-0
Poetry 92 pages $23.95

**Songs of the North**
Deborah L. Kelly
Poetry 100 pages $23.95

**Sleep With Me**
Janet Vickers
Poetry 84 pages $23.95

**In Praise of Small Mistakes**
Lesley Choys
Poetry 89 pages $23.95

**Songs of the North**
Deborah L. Kelly
Poetry 100 pages $23.95

**Impromptu**
Jude Neale
ISBN 978-1-77171-358-0
Poetry 92 pages $23.95

**Impromptu**
Jude Neale
ISBN 978-1-77171-358-0
Poetry 92 pages $23.95
The crime of Rhino poaching

Little-known artists of B.C.

In the first half of the 20th century, upwards of 16,000 artists lived and worked in B.C. yet other than a handful of those who achieved ‘success,’ there has been little documented evidence of the majority of the others.

Art was made invisible by socio-economic or political forces and also a lack of galleries. “Those artists that worked the system got recognition and those that didn’t, disappeared from view,” says Mona Fertig of Mother Tongue Publishing.

Now thirteen of these forgotten artists of B.C. have been gathered into one book, The Pocket Guide to The Unheralded Artists of B.C. series of books called Mother Tongue that includes stories on Mary Filer, David Marshall, and Mona Fertig’s father, George Fertig among others.

Now thirteen of these forgotten artists have been gathered into one book, The Pocket Guide to The Unheralded Artists of B.C. Series (Mother Tongue $24.95). Each artist’s life and work, from the early 1900s to the 1980s is summed up. The goal is to tempt readers to go back to the earlier books and read more fully about each of these artists, all of whom created large bodies of work during their lifetimes.

Mary Filer at Quebec’s Dawson College, 1944. She trained as a painter and became a glass sculptor from the late 1940s until her death in 2016.

This spurred Fertig to publish a series of books called The Unheralded Artists of B.C that included stories on Harry and Jessie Webb, Mildred Valley Thomson, Mary Filer, David Marshall, and Mona Fertig’s father, George Fertig among others.

Now thirteen of these forgotten artists have been gathered into one book, The Pocket Guide to The Unheralded Artists of B.C. Series (Mother Tongue $24.95). Each artist's life and work, from the early 1900s to the 1980s is summarized. The goal is to tempt readers to go back to the earlier books and read more fully about each of these artists, all of whom created large bodies of work during their lifetimes.

Marie Clements’ latest play, Iron Peggy (Talonbooks $16.95) employs magic realism to span multi-generations and link contemporary times to WWI (1914–1918). The story follows Peg, a young girl struggling at boarding school while being bullied. Peg’s father is absent and the school administration is uninterested and unwilling to intervene.

When Peg’s grandmother dies, an unexpected gift arrives—three antique cast iron soldiers that magically come to life in the form of Indigenous snipers from WWI. The soldiers teach Peg survival skills to take on her bullies.

Iron Peggy was commissioned by the Vancouver International Children’s Festival but would also appeal to adult readers.

Marie Clements founded Urban Ink, a Vancouver-based theatre company that produces works by Indigenous and diverse artists. As a Métis performer and playwright, she has explored the politics of race, gender and class. Clements’ plays include Copper Thunderbird (Talon-books, 2007) about the tormented life of Norval Morriseau, the man generally regarded as the Father of Contemporary First Nations art.

Copper Thunderbird relates a Faustian tale of the world-revered artist who became a Grand Shaman within the realm of Ojibwa cosmology while succumbing to the effects of family abuse, alcoholism and extreme poverty—including wanderings on the streets of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. The result is a composite vision of a fractured life.

The world premiere of Copper Thunderbird marked the first time Canada’s National Arts Centre in Ottawa produced the work of a First Nations playwright on its main stage.

Marie Clements with a face painting in the style of Norval Morriseau.
New books from Douglas & McIntyre

HOW TO LOSE EVERYTHING
A Memoir
CHRISTA COUTURE

In the first book in the D&M Kids imprint, BRIDGET GEORGE introduces young readers to Ojibwe words for nature.

$22.95 • MEMOIR/CHILDREN'S (5–10) • ISBN 978-1-7742-275-8
HARDCOVER • 176 X 9 1/8 • 32 PGS

A memoir

FIELD NOTES FROM AN UNINTENTIONAL BIRDER
A Memoir
JULIA ZARANKIN

An unexpected passion for birding, along with a new understanding of the world and her own place in it.

$24.95 • MEMOIR/NATURE
ISBN 978-1-7742-238-4 • PAPERBACK
FRENCH CLAPS • 5 3/4 X 8 1/4 • 224 PGS
30 B&W ILLUSTRATIONS

A memoir

REG SHERREN

THE RISE OF REAL-LIFE SUPERHEROES
And the Fall of Everything Else
Life-long comic book fan and journalist PETER NOWAK traces the phenomenon of real-life superheroes and what it means for the future of our society.

$24.95 • SOCIAL SCIENCE
ISBN 978-1-7742-235-9 • PAPERBACK
FRENCH CLAPS • 6 1/8 • 256 PGS
34 COLOUR AND B&W ILLUSTRATIONS

A profile

That Wasn’t the Plan
A Memoir
CHARLES DEMERS

Here is CHARLES DEMERS' delightful take on the amateurish genre and the first book in a series of mysteries involving mental health, featuring feisty Acadian protagonist, Dr. Arnaud Bourdrea.

$18.95 • FICTION/MYSTERY
ISBN 978-1-7742-255-4 • PAPERBACK
6 1/8 • 352 PGS

A memoir

BLUE SKY KINGDOM
An Eco Family Journey to the Heart of the Himalaya
Bestselling adventure writer BRUCE KIRKBY recounts his latest feast taking his two young kids on an epic slow travel trek to a remote Tibetan monastery.

$34.95 • MEMOIR/TRAVEL
ISBN 978-1-7742-276-9 • HARDCOVER
A X Y • 356 PGS • 56 COLOUR PHOTOS, NEW ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS

A memoir

I OVERCOME MY AUTISM AND ALL I GOT WAS THIS LOUSY ANXIETY DISORDER
A Memoir
SARAH KRUSE

A curious and informative guide to how anxiety presents itself in the autistic population.

$14.95 • MEMOIR
ISBN 978-1-7742-244-2 • PAPERBACK
FRENCH CLAPS • 5 3/4 X 8 1/4 • 200 PGS

A memoir

THE SWAN SUIT
KATHERINE FANCETT

This devishly funny collection of short stories blends the banalities of everyday dilemmas with elements of magic and the macabre.

$22.95 • SHORT FICTION
ISBN 978-1-7742-240-9 • PAPERBACK
FRENCH CLAPS • 5 3/4 X 8 1/4 • 224 PGS

A memoir

THE WILD HEAVENS
It all starts with an impossible large set of tracks, footprints for a creature that could not possibly exist. This novel by SARAH LOUISE BUTLER pays tribute to the unteachable mystery of the natural world.

$22.95 • FICTION/NOVEL
ISBN 978-1-7742-254-5 • PAPERBACK
FRENCH CLAPS • 3 3/4 X 8 3/4 • 272 PGS

A memoir

THAT’S WHY I’M A DOCTOR
Physicians Recount Their Most Memorable Moments
MARK BULGUTCH

A compendium of career-affirming moments from a diverse group of doctors across Canada.

$24.95 • FICTION/MEDICINE
ISBN 978-1-7742-232-3 • PAPERBACK
6 1/8 • 208 PGS

A memoir

Available now from booksellers across British Columbia

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE: www.douglas-mcintyre.com • facebook.com/DMPublishers • instagram.com/douglasmcintyre2013 • twitter.com/DMPublishers

FOR TRADE: All Douglas & McIntyre titles are available from University of Toronto Press Distribution

6 BC BOOKWORLD • AUTUMN 2020
The Big League

Twenty-six plus-sized people tell the stories of how they navigate a society obsessed with thinness, including some who developed important life skills while growing up “big.”

by Beverly Cramp

In a world where controlling and perfecting our bodies is the most important job, project, obsession and goal that a woman can have, it would have been impossible to reach the end of childhood feeling as benign and neutral about a word like solid as I did in the beginning.

At first, Myers made jokes. “I’m sturdy,” I’d say, usually with a wink or chuckle. “I’ll have made a great farm wife—big child-bearing hips, strong enough to pull a plow, I’d just work hard all day touting water and chopping wood.” It was a false front: a feigned implication that I embraced my shape as ‘solid.’

A friend called her on it. “The way you say that is not kind to yourself,” they said. “You don’t mean it in a good way.”

From that time on, Myers began to think about how words affect people, their self-image, confidence and well-being. “So what words, then, should I use? What words should any of us use?” It is not an uncommon question these days, but the decision is ultimately so personal that I’m not convinced there is a right or best answer.

While compiling the 26 stories for reflections on the experiences of “plus-size” women (including non-binary and trans people) in a society that values thinness, Myers opted to title her book, Big—not fat, curvy, chubby, ’ruhenesque’ or even sturdy.

“Big is a simple word, with complicated implications,” she says.

The stories include expected themes such as bullying, difficult relationships, poor self-image and challenging health care. And then there are the unexpected stories, like that of Leyla Cameron who grew up in a straight-talking family of health professionals who got on the topic of eugenics one day.

Cameron asked whether or not it was “morally acceptable—even desirable—to detect so-called ‘deficiencies’ during pregnancy?”

After discussing the controversial topic of ‘designer babies’ Cameron went further, wondering “if they had known how being fat would affect my life, would they have taken the opportunity to deselect ‘fat’ from the panel of characteristics possessed by the little embryo that was to be me?”

Cameron was shocked when her family answered they absolutely would, but understood they knew that being fat had been a source of a lot of pain to her growing up; that they would have done what they could to protect her from that.

Cameron acknowledged that, “being fat had also shaped almost everything about me,” but added that her “sense of humour, compassionate nature, radical politics and values would all be different, I was sure, if I hadn’t moved through the world as a fat person.” In the end, Cameron embraced her body shape.

Another contributor, Tracy Manrell discovers, while going through a sex change from female to male, how much difference there is between being overweight as a woman and as a man. “Although I always observed that life for a big man seemed different than life for big women, I was struck on a new level just how different these worlds are,” she says. “Women and men have different definitions of a fat body, I observe. Women are much harder on themselves. A woman sees herself as fat when carrying an extra ten or even five pounds. A man with those same extra pounds (and more) sees itself as muscle or brawn on their bodies.” Manrell encounters a doctor who doesn’t like the word ‘fat’ because she sees it as an insult and won’t allow its use in her office. Manrell doesn’t agree.

“The queer community is famous for reclaiming words that have historically been used against us: queer, dyke, fag, tranny. Used by the right people and in the right context, these words carry their own positive power. And they are just words — adjectives, descriptors. Frankly, there was a long time when if someone called me a fat dyke, I could say, ‘Yes. Yes, I am. Fat and (for now) a dyke. What’s your point?’ So, when I call myself fat, I am not putting myself down. I am fat. I wear glasses. I have brown hair and a brown beard. I am trans-gender. And none of this is inherently bad.”

Ultimately, the use of words is what drew Christina Myers to this book project. She says it is her hope that readers will ask questions about the way they think and talk about their own bodies and other people’s bodies, about the world we live in and its lessons and obsessions, and about the words we use and how they shape us.
Slashburner: Hot Times in the British Columbia Woods by Nick Raeside (Harbour Publishing $24.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

LABOUR REVIEW

The slashburners who set controlled fires in the woods are a breed unto themselves.

Slash & Burn & Learn

A helitorch lighting slash in late afternoon in the Bush River Valley. The block is in shadow, while the sun is still shining on the mountain ridge.

SLASH & BURN & LEARN

A crew inspects a spot fire during a slashburning job on the Bush River Valley in southeastern B.C.

O n Vancouver Island, in 1938, a huge fire from sparks of logging machinery blackened nearly 75,000 acres. Named the Blueded Fire, its size and spread were caused by thousands of acres of slash that had accumulated after years of logging.

Therafter, each autumn logging operators on the B.C. coast and Vancouver Island are obligated to dispose of their accumulations of logging slash by controlled burning, thus limiting the chances of a major conflagration in the woods next summer. In 1967, these regulations were extended to the rest of the province.

A whole new vocation developed—that of the slashburner—as Nick Raeside describes in his memoir, Slashburner: Hot Times in the British Columbia Woods.

“While many firefighters greeted the arrival of cooler weather with relief as they looked forward to well-earned days off,” says Raeside, “there were others who couldn’t wait for the fall slashburning program to begin.

“Possibly it was the prospect of a few more weeks of employment that had accumulated after years of logging.

“Raeside remembers he had to search for light bulbs that still worked, which revealed the floors were littered with sand and old cigarette butts. The ceilings were covered with fungus, “peeling off in lumps and dropping onto the mattress.”

Eventually he would learn to rappel from helicopters. This was the way crews were deployed onto fires burning on inaccessible terrain. The training was unforgettable. “It was a one-way flight,” he recalls. “The only way to get back to the ground was to slide down the two-hundred-foot rope attached to the side of the aircraft as it hovered above the airport runway.”

Safety measures were far from extreme. Raeside found his first slash burning jacket in the leftover trash in a ‘crummy’ (the nickname for a large vehicle used for transporting logging crews, referring to the general condition of its interior).

“The back of the jacket ended up being burned through…with the result that the feather stuffing started falling out,” says Raeside. “The company office staff weren’t too thrilled by the fact that I’d leave a trail of dirty feathers behind me when I walked through the building, so I mended the damage with duct tape.

“Eventually the jacket got so soaked in diesel oil that it was too much even for me. It was ritually burned at the end of one burning season, along with the mattress.”

As a teenager in high school, he volunteered to fight local wild fires. “This time he had footwear, he says, “although it wasn’t entirely satisfactory, as they were plastic sandals.” The sandals melted but a passion for fighting wildfires was ignited.

Raeside did a variety of jobs until he was hired by a company that provided contract forest fire control service. It was a rough calling but he stayed in that line of work throughout the 1970s and ‘80s.

His first training camp, near Golden, consisted of old buildings left over from the Mica Dam project. He was the second person to arrive in the camp, which meant he had the pick of the bunkhouse rooms. From earlier stays, he knew it was never advisable to inspect mattresses too closely.

Raeside remembers he had to search for light bulbs that still worked, which revealed the floors were littered with sand and old cigarette butts. The ceilings were covered with fungus, “peeling off in lumps and dropping onto the mattress.”

Eventually he would learn to rappel from helicopters. This was the way crews were deployed onto fires burning on inaccessible terrain. The training was unforgettable. “It was a one-way flight,” he recalls. “The only way to get back to the ground was to slide down the two-hundred-foot rope attached to the side of the aircraft as it hovered above the airport runway.”

Safety measures were far from extreme. Raeside found his first slash burning jacket in the leftover trash in a ‘crummy’ (the nickname for a large vehicle used for transporting logging crews, referring to the general condition of its interior).

“The back of the jacket ended up being burned through…with the result that the feather stuffing started falling out,” says Raeside. “The company office staff weren’t too thrilled by the fact that I’d leave a trail of dirty feathers behind me when I walked through the building, so I mended the damage with duct tape.”

“Eventually the jacket got so soaked in diesel oil that it was too much even for me. It was ritually burned at the end of one burning season, along with the jersey and jeans I’d been wearing concurrently.”

“Sometimes, though, it was better to write off the costs and give up for the day as opposed to lighting up and have a really expensive next few days if the weather didn’t turn out nasty.”

“There were times when Raeside found peculiar beauty in his work. Once, as he was leaving a fire that proved too deadly to fight, he looked back to see a spire tree go up in flames. "This one was unusual, though, in that a crimson flame wrapped around it in a spiral, looking much like the celphepane wrapping that’s twisted around presentation bunches of flowers.”

By the fall of 1989, Raeside’s days on steep terrain were taking their toll, an old hip injury was making every mountainside climb difficult. He had to give up slashburning and return to forest fire suppression on the coast.

He eventually retired to NanOOSE Bay, where he says, “the only burning I get to do now is the occasional pile of branches in the backyard.”

BC BOOKWORLD • AUTUMN 2020
The E. J. Hughes Book of Boats
Robert Amos
This new collection from the official biographer of E. J. Hughes brings together the artist’s coastal paintings for the appreciation of art lovers and boat enthusiasts. Previous titles in this series include E. J. Hughes Paints Vancouver Island and E. J. Hughes Paints British Columbia.
$23 hc | $12.99 ebook

Orphans of Empire
Grant Butler
“Meticulously researched and vividly drawn.” —Steven Price, author
Three captivating stories spanning fifty years intertwine at the site of the historic New Brighton Hotel on the shores of Burrard Inlet.
$22 pb | $10.99 ebook

Cedar and Salt
Vancouver Island Recipes from Forest, Farm, Field, and Sea
DL Ackon and Emily Lycopolus
Finalist for the BC and Yukon Book Prizes
More than 100 homegrown, modern recipes celebrating the most treasured local ingredients from Vancouver Island.
$45 hc | $17.99 ebook

A Year on the Wild Side
A West Coast Naturalist’s Almanac
Briony Penn
Finalist for the BC and Yukon Book Prizes
A year-long commentary on the social and natural history of Vancouver Island that also reveals the magic and humour of the natural world.
$26 pb | $12.99 ebook

Grandfathered
Dispatches from the Trenches of Modern Grandparenthood
Ian Haysom
Folks of all ages will love this tribute to 21st-century grandparenting. “A humourous, touching, and engaging meditation on what it means to be a grandfather.” —Terry Fallis
$22.95 pb | $12.99 ebook

Gilly the Ghillie
More Chronicles of a West Coast Fishing Guide
David Giblin
The fun continues in this follow-up to The Codfish Dream about a group of fishing guides during the heyday of trophy salmon fishing in the early 1980s.
$19.95 pb | $9.99 ebook

Heard Amid the Guns
True Stories from the Western Front, 1914–1918
Jacqueline Larson Carmichael
A new take on the First World War is revealed through photos, timelines, and stories of men and women from diverse backgrounds who answered the call to war.
$26.95 pb | $12.99 ebook

Railway Nation
Tales of Canadian Pacific, the World’s Greatest Travel System
David Laurence Jones
A lively and nuanced portrait of an iconic company and its role in the development of ocean, rail, and air travel in Canada.
$34.95 pb | $14.99 ebook

Stories from the Magic Canoe of Wa’xaid
Cecil Paul
A new paperback edition of this BC bestseller, featuring the profound reflections and stories of Cecil Paul (Wa’xaid).
$25 pb | $12.99 ebook

Paradise Won
The Struggle to Create Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve
Briney Penn
The first major biography of Cecil Paul (Wa’xaid), one of North America’s most prominent Indigenous leaders.
$38 hc | $19.99 ebook
Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think Is Critical to Solving the Crisis, Environmental Crisis by Elín Kelsey (Greystones Books $22.95)

BY JOHN GELLARD

ast your mind back to pre-COVID days when the major crisis was global warming. Man-made change was about to destroy human civilization by making our planet uninhabitable.

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood," said the Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg "

"The environmental crisis is also a crisis of hope," says Elín Kelsey, who has been working on this issue since 2008, writing award-winning books, giving lectures and running workshops. Now Kelsey shows in Hope Matters, due out October 27, how to get from soul destroying despair to health-giving hope—not a passive 'Pollyanna' hope, but "hope with its sleeves rolled up" that compels us to take community action and strive toward solutions.

The COVID crisis has temporarily eclipsed the climate crisis. Has this taken the wind out of Kelsey's sails? Certainly not! The principles of hope she applies to the climate crisis will also be useful in solving the COVID crisis and then we can get back to environmental issues.

Hope Matters is packed with examples of hope-driven action, stories of nature's resilience and satisfying advice about keeping our sanity in a crisis. So, let's look at a few of the many solutions that appear as we turn away from apocalyptic platitudes ("The earth is dying") or fatalistic mindsets ("I am hopeless. It is hopeless") and embrace dynamic hope.

Nature has an astonishing capacity for healing. Look for ecosystems that have recovered from calamity, including the Bikini atoll where H-bomb testing destroyed life in the 1950s. Now we find healthy marine communities with "corals as big as cars." Bikini is "radioactive and resilient."

We can help by recognizing this resilience. The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, home to a thriving population of radioactive wolves, is a major wildlife sanctuary. Sudbury, Ontario, once horribly polluted, is now "an international model of ecological recovery."

"Not only can we help nature along, but we can also take the lead. Community organizers in Portland, Oregon "wanted to make Portland a place where people would come for the green lifestyle." Like-minded people gathered there and now the city is "one of the greenest cities in the U.S."

Southern humpback whales have recovered. Amur tigers in Siberia are endangered but their population is increasing thanks to Vladimir Putin who identifies with them. New bridges across highways link the habitats of threatened species from tigers to grizzly bears, elks to turtles.

"Rewilding" introduces "native wildlife back into degraded ecosystems." Giant anteaters have returned to northern Argentina; (bottom right) The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone in Ukraine (home to a thriving population of radioactive wolves) is a major wildlife sanctuary.

Elín Kelsey also writes books for children.

Advice on how to get from soul-destroying despair to health-giving hope.

"Rewilding" introduces "native wildlife back into degraded ecosystems." Giant anteaters have returned to northern Argentina; (bottom right) The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone in Ukraine (home to a thriving population of radioactive wolves) is a major wildlife sanctuary.

With its sleeves rolled up

SIGNs of healing: (left) The Bikini atoll where H-bomb testing destroyed life in the 1950s is now a healthy marine community; (top right) Giant anteaters have returned to northern Argentina; (bottom right) The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone in Ukraine (home to a thriving population of radioactive wolves) is a major wildlife sanctuary.
Plants, People, and Places
The Roles of Ethnobotany and Ethnoecology in Indigenous Peoples’ Land Rights in Canada and Beyond
edited by Nancy J. Turner
Cloth  $49.95  554pp
“Plants, People, and Places is a remarkably eloquent and collaborative statement on an issue of fundamental importance to Indigenous people. It is intrinsically a work of art and reconciliation.” – Ken Coates, co-author of Land of the Midnight Sun: A History of the Yukon

Fighting for a Hand to Hold
Confronting Medical Colonialism against Indigenous Children in Canada
Samir Shaheen-Hussain
Foreword by Cindy Blackstock, afterword by Katsi’tsakwas Ellen Gabriel
Cloth  $29.95  360pp
“A necessary and sobering read. Shaheen-Hussain masterfully exposes the ways in which the logics of settler colonialism and genocide are structurally embedded into Canada’s healthcare system. He illuminates how egregious racial violence takes place – in plain sight – under the direction of a publicly funded institution that is broadly understood, by most Canadians, as a social good. The book, meticulously researched, firmly centres Canada’s medical system as a crucial site for ongoing anti-colonial struggle.” – Robyn Maynard, author of Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present

Watermelon Snow
Science, Art, and a Lone Polar Bear
Lyne Quarmby
Cloth  $24.95  184pp
“Take a trip to the top of the world through the eyes of an impassioned scientist who experiences the unique landscape first-hand and, as an activist, mourns the loss of a frozen world that once was. This is a must-read for anyone concerned about the rapid changes taking place in the Arctic as it warms and the implications for the rest of the planet.” – Bob MacDonald, host of CBC Radio’s Quirks & Quarks

My Vancouver Dance History
Story, Movement, Community
Peter Dickinson
Paper  $37.95  384pp
“Peter Dickinson’s passion for dance is clear. He is to be commended for his astute close readings of choreography and... profiling individual dance artists and their creative processes. Dickinson has a talent for describing movement in prose that is simultaneously erudite and accessible.” – Allana Lindgren, author of Renegade Bodies: Canadian Dance in the 1970s

Voices at the Intersection of Art, Science, and Activism
A debut poetry collection that grows from the impulse to explore home in the suburb – in the intersections, overlaps, and gaps between urban and rural. These are walking poems and driving poems.
Eat Salt | Gaze at the Ocean
Junie Désil
eat salt | gaze at the ocean explores the themes of Black sovereignty, Haitian sovereignty, and Black lives, using the original Haitian zombie as a metaphor for the condition and treatment of Black bodies.

Mégantic
A Deadly Mix of Oil, Rail, and Avarice
Anne-Marie Saint-Cerny
Translated by Donald Wilson
In this fascinating piece of investigative journalism, which unfolds like a thriller, Saint-Cerny reveals the inner workings of the 2013 Lac-Mégantic rail disaster. She uncovers how the disaster, far from being just an “error of a faulty system,” was caused by powerful people and institutions distant from the town itself.

They Write Their Dream on the Rock Forever
Rock Writings in the Stein River Valley of British Columbia
Annie York, Richard Daly, and Chris Arnett
Nlaka’pamux Elder Annie York explains the red-ochre inscriptions written on the rocks and cliffs of the lower Stein Valley in British Columbia. This second, fully redesigned paperback edition of the book is lighter and more portable, and features site instructions for these cultural treasures.

Music at the Heart of Thinking
Improvitations 1–170
Fred Wah
Music at the Heart of Thinking is a life-long poem project from the Governor General’s Award–winning former parliamentary poet laureate.

Talonbooks Fall 2020
New books by award-winning writers & stunning debut voices

Balancing Bountiful: What I Learned about Feminism from My Polygamous Grandmothers by Mary Jayne Blackmore
Our Backs Warmed by the Sun: Memories of a Doukhobor Life by Vera Maloff
Hammer & Nail: Notes of a Journeywoman by Katie Braid

The Crooked Thing, stories by Mary MacDonald
Dispatches from Ray’s Planet: A Journey through Autism by Claire Finlayson
Finding Heartstone: A Taste of Vulnerability by Cathy Sosnowsky
Small Courage: A Queer Memoir of Finding Love and Conceiving Family by Jane Byers

The Hammer of Witches, poems by Kelly Rose Pflug-Back
The Burden of Gravity, poems by Shannon McConnell
Finding Heartstone: A Taste of Vulnerability by Cathy Sosnowsky

Available at your local independent bookstore or online at caitlin-press.com

Caitlin Press

FROM THE AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF DRY IN THE GREEN

HARKING

After her parents’ divorce and the discovery of a series of cryptic notes left behind after her father is killed in an avalanche, Harling Thompson struggles to come to her own understanding of love, loss, and what truly matters. Caught up in a battle to save a mother grizzly bear and her cubs, Harling’s fight to protect the wildlife and wild places she loves teaches her a vital truth: sometimes saving a life might mean losing another you love even more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Mercer is a national park writer for more than 30 years. George loves his passion for parks and includes the first fiction novel in the series of Canada’s West Coast National Parks.

Harkings is George’s first novel outside of the park. In the series, and his first story of freeing Harling.

For more about George’s writing go to www.georgemercur.ca

12 BC BOOKWORLD • AUTUMN 2020
Bruce Kirkby’s descriptions of butter lamps, rosary beads, chanting, maroon-robed monks, simple meals and monastic puja rituals make for fascinating reading.

Blue Sky Kingdom: An Epic Family Journey to the Heart of the Himalaya by Bruce Kirkby (D&M $34.95) 

BY TREVOR CAROLAN

When you’re destined for “Little Tibet”—India’s northern-most region of Ladakh with its mountain hamlets set in thin oxy- gen at 12,000 ft.—you’d better be ready: travelers hear regularly of those who check in, but who don’t check out from the roman- ticized Shangri-la regions of the Kar- koram Range. So why parents from the Kootenays with two sons, Bodhi, aged seven and Taj, three, would want to venture to an isolated Himalayan village in Little Tibet makes Blue Sky Kingdom: An Epic Family Journey to the Heart of the Himalayas intriguing from the get-go.

Calling Kimberley home, Bruce Kirkby packs credentials as an out-doors photographer, writer and wil- derness guide with a yen for extreme challenges. On this adventure, along with his wife Christine, he hopes to explore more deeply the realms of in- ner experience. Bodhi, their eldest son, registers on the autism spectrum, and his mother is concerned for both her younglings. With a need to get out of a con- stricting life, and with bumps in their marriage to overcome, the Kirkbys head for Ladakh’s remote Zanskar Valley. Readers following recent news will know of ongoing border fighting between Chinese aggressor forces and the Indian army a scant 150 miles to the north. Overburdened with an L.A. film crew documenting the family odys- seny, the author confesses, “selfishly, I had agreed to the television project at the last minute, viewing it as a way to advance my freelance writing and pho- tography career.” It also pays the bills. Christine meantime is “ lukewarm about the idea from the start.” She has a doctorate in psychology, and metaphysical interests in Buddhism, however, she hopes that living in a traditional Tibetan community for a time might have dividends. They can teach English and math, maybe do some good.

Kirkby regards their expedition in terms of “self-preservation,” saying “our only choice was to swim for all we were worth toward a distant, opaque light—something we hoped was the surface.” For twelve weeks they aim for the higher heights—by canoe, train, trans-Pacific freighter to Seoul, Shangh, then train from Beijing to Lhasa. Although it’s an epic route, Kirkby spends no more than a few pages on each of these phases. The exception is his outrage at China’s savage occupa- tion of Tibet. A dusty, smelly Indian train ride soon kicks in, ultimately nearing them to their destination.

For ten days with a reduced film crew they trek through the magi- cal landscapes and snowy peaks of high-altitude valleys. We learn Kirkby passed this way twenty years earlier. Things have changed: creeping mo- dernity gnaws at Ladakh’s traditional culture. Yet some things remain: fright- ening canyon-precipice trails lead on to prayer flags and yaks. There are still peasants in colourful garb and neck- laces calling out Jullay!, their universal greeting.

Blue Sky Kingdom takes us to Zanskar and the time-defying world of Karsha Gompa, a 1,000-year-old Vajrayana Buddhist monastery where the family has an invitation to live and teach. Once Lama Wangyal, the re- vered head monk, welcomes and gives them local names, and when the movie crew departs, the family is free to settle and Kirkby’s tales of daily village life become engaging.

Kirkby’s descriptions of butter lamps, rosary beads, chanting, ma- roon-robed monks, simple meals and monastic puja rituals make for fascinating reading. In films like Kundun, The Cup and Kundun, some of us have seen images of Tibetan Bud- dhism’s utterly unique culture: the Kirkbys’ new home is a world of living holiness where compassion, profound faith and everyday kindness are fund- mental.

Led by their sons Bodhi and Taj, who flow easily into local customs, the family deepens its awareness through classroom interactions with their novice monk students and the villagers. Steadily, everyone loosens up. Sitting meditation helps overcome distrac- tions; there are mysterious healings, funerals and one’s daily tamsa barley flour needs grinding.

Several times Kirkby introduces detailed accounts of the parents’ ex- perience with their son Bodhi’s autism, the stress induced by it and a deeper layman’s explanation of Asberger’s Syndrome in particular, along with its place on the autism spectrum. We get an inside look at the various develop- mental challenges and situations in- volved. The talented ink illustrations in the book are by this seven-year-old boy. Toward the end of their three-month stay, the Kirkbys determine it’s finally the moment to discuss autism with their son. It’s a tender, vulnerable scene.

For Bruce Kirkby, he gains bright- ened awareness while helping Lama Wangyal’s family clan in the timeless work of harvesting barley. Everything, he intuits, is done with prayer. In one of the book’s most affecting passages he concludes “there seemed to be no separation between life and religion in these fields. Life was the ceremony.”

Kirkby further glimpses that the ramshackle advance of modernity in- evitably heralds the dissolution of this ancient society. Zanskar, he concludes empathetically, sits “perched on the edge of extinction.”

The road can be a tough teacher. Back in B.C., Kirkby has a deeper ap- preciation of stillness, “to quietly watch and listen.” Can we ever tire of such simple, good advice?  

978-1-77162-269-1

The most recent book by world traveler and lifelong Buddhism explorer, Trevor Carolan, is Road Trips: Journeys in the Unspoiled World (Mother Tongue, 2020).
In 1965, the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) acquired an indigenous button blanket and headdress with remarkable killer whale imagery. At the time, they were in the possession of Mildred Valley Thornton, a white artist and journalist.

Known for her portraits of Indigenous people in B.C. and Alberta, Thornton frequently talked to her subjects as she painted them, and then recorded any socially significant comments soon afterwards for books she later wrote.

But Thornton provided no information about the original owner of the headdress and blanket, nor where or from whom she had acquired them.

The RBCM already knew though, from existing photos taken in 1899, that both once belonged to the family of Charles Nowell, a Kwakwaka’wakw chief originally from Fort Rupert who later lived in Alert Bay.

“The headdress and blanket had come to Nowell through his marriage to Ruth, the daughter of Chief Lagius, in 1899,” says Martha Black in an essay for Spirits of the Coast: Orcas in Science, Art and History, a collection from over 50 contributors that explores one of B.C.’s most ubiquitous symbols of the coast. Black adds that several historical photographs show Chief Lagius, Ruth Lagius Nowell and Charles Nowell wearing the headdress and blanket over a span of at least 25 years.

“These images hint at how, in its original cultural context, the killer whale headdress signified identity, lineage, connections and collective action.”

Black cites other experts about the killer whale being a primary crest of the Haida Raven lineages, the oldest of the Haida crests and a major crest in all other Northwest Coast cultures “appearing on poles, house fronts, painted and carved screens, robes, headdresses, hats and other regalia, bracelets, spoons and more.”

Mildred Valley Thornton can be seen wearing the killer whale regalia for a photo that appeared in the Vancouver Sun in 1949, a troubling image of cultural appropriation. As Black notes, “the photograph bears witness to the migration of the killer whale headdress and button blanket from Kwakwaka’wakw lineage property to exotic non-Indigenous costume.”

A celebration of modern Thai cooking from Chef Angus An of Vancouver’s award-winning restaurant Maenam

“Maenam exudes freshness and flavor. Citrusy lemongrass and spicy Nahm Prik are almost palpable flicking through Angus An’s modern homage to Thai cooking. This is a sure inspiration for many meals to come.”

YOYAM OTTOLENGHI

“Angus takes iconic flavors of Thai cuisine and transforms them into creative, elegant, and absolutely gorgeous dishes. The perfect blend of traditional and modern, Maenam is a truly unique Thai cookbook.”

PAILIN CHONGCHITNANT, AUTHOR OF HOT THAI KITCHEN

AVAILABLE NOW, WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD
Black points out that Thornton “expressed her ‘enduring respect’ for Indigenous peoples and their histories, arts, ways of life and spirituality, suggesting she felt kinship with these values.”

Perhaps Mildred Valley Thornton felt ‘transformed’ by posing in Charles Nowell’s regalia. Nonetheless, it was cultural appropriation and Thornton’s use of the regalia was a symbol of insensitive colonialism.

Other essays in the collection describe the orca’s role as an apex marine predator.

“It preys on a wide range of species throughout the world’s oceans, making it one of the most ecologically diverse and widespread species on the planet,” writes researchers Jared Towers and Rebecca Wallard, who specifically describe killer whales (referred to as type A, B, C and D) in the Southern Hemisphere, which are the largest and most widespread species of orca in the world.

Those known as type A killer whales are so large that their prey consists mainly of minke whales and elephant seals around the Antarctic Peninsula. Most other killer whales’ prey in the region consists of smaller seals, penguins, fish and squid.

Killer whales are known for their cunning, group-organized predations. For example, type B killer whales use “a dramatic hunting technique called ‘wave-washing,’ in which they all swim quickly along the surface towards an ice floe with a seal on it. They synchronously dive just before hitting it, and kick up a large wave with their flukes, which washes the seal off the ice.”

The use of the common English name killer whale is misleading as orcas are actually in the dolphin family writes Ken Balcomb in his essay simply titled Killer Whales. While there is a minimum of ten different species of killer whales found in all oceans and seas worldwide, Balcomb says the killer whales of B.C., so-called Resident killer whales, are “indisputably” the most studied in the world. He charts their origins from the North Atlantic Ocean, from where they migrated through the Bering Strait about 120,000 years ago during one of the times when it was clear of ice. (Another of those ice-free, interglacial warming periods is happening now).

The Pacific Northwest orcas referred to as “Transient killer whales” are genetically so different from North Atlantic killer whales that Balcomb believes they came through the Bering Strait even earlier than the Resident killer whales.

Pacific Northwest orcas favour eating chinook salmon, the largest and most nutritious salmon. Chinook used to be abundant in the region but are no longer. Ken Balcomb blames human harvesting (which can take as much as 90% of the fish in a given year) and environmental destruction from our industrial activities.

Balcomb concludes that if the salmon continue to dwindle, the killer whales could be extirpated and humans may not be far behind.

“Reducing our impact on the ecosystem is much easier than sending a rocket to the moon,” he writes. “But if we fail and the salmon stocks go extinct, and if climate change runs wild thanks to our inability to self-regulate, we may ourselves join the growing list of extinct species in the fossil record.”

978-07748-6388-9
Ruth Lagius Nowell and Chief Charles Nowell in killer whale headdress and blankets, 1899.
Celebrating 40 years of activist, solutions-oriented publishing

From our roots in nonviolent civil disobedience training during the Vietnam war, to today, with over 600 books published, New Society Publishers continues to bring positive solutions and cutting edge ideas, to some of the most troubling challenges of our time.

Available at fine bookstores and online retailers, or www.newsociety.com. Call 1-800-567-6772 for a full catalogue.
In 1950, eating bagged lunches, sitting with high school girl-
friends in Vancouver, Julia Levy (née Coppens) se-
crly disagreed with their discussions about going to uni-
versity.

Then, on Levy’s sixth birthday in 1940, news came that Holland had surrendered to Germany. Her father quickly sent his wife and two daughters to Canada. He was taken prisoner days later and spent the war in a Japanese prisoner of war camp—notorious for their horrendous conditions.

At the end of the war, when he rejoined his family in Vancouver, he was a broken man suffering from PTSD.

In Sight: My Life in Science and Biotech by Julia Levy (UTP $34.95)

Julia Levy with colleague David Dolphin and a molecular model of QLT’s drug, BPD-MA.

Julia Levy, a scientist and WW II refugee, became a billion-dollar biotech entrepreneur.

How Julia Levy, a scientist and WW II refugee, became a billion-dollar biotech entrepreneur.

In 1959, Levy returned to Canada to take a posi-
tion at UBC as an assistant professor with a salary of $4,800 per year. More importantly, she was also given her own lab and office to do research in immu-
nology and microbiology. But her first marriage was floundering and she left her husband after the birth of their second child in 1961.

In the 1960s, Levy befriended another research scientist named David Suzuki who had “a vibrant lab of graduate students” and was “high energy and a great organizer of group activities.” Suzuki later became a media star as the host of TV show, The Nature of Things.

By the late ’60s, Levy’s career was taking off. She was getting invitations to international science meet-
ings. She also found time to remarry, to Ed Levy, and she had her third child.

In the ’70s, Levy began studying a new field in-
volving light-activated drugs, called porphyrins, that showed early promise for treating cancers. It led her to co-found one of Canada’s nascent biotechnology companies, Quadra Logic Technologies, later short-
ened to QLT Inc. Their initial resolve was to work on cancer treatments.

QLT’s Photofrin drug was approved in 1993 in Canada and later in the United States for several types of cancer. But QLT remains more widely-known for discovering the first medical treatment of a leading cause of blindness among the elderly with the drug known as Visudyne.

It was the development of Visudyne that boosted QLT to a billion-dollar company.

Levy retired from the company in 2006 after having won many awards including the Helen Keller Award for Contributions to Vision and the Lifetime Achieve-
ment Award from the B.C. Biotechnology Association.

In Sight: My Life in Science and Biotech

In a nutshell, at 23 she earned her Ph.D. from

having scientific training in the 1920s and

first generation of pioneering women who persevered in

true role models.”

Levy graduated with an honours B.A. in bacteriol-
ogy and immunology. If there was a big break, it was

probably applying for a job at The National Institute for Medical Research in a northern suburb of Lon-
don, England whereupon she was given a fellowship
to be her doctorate. Newly married, she earned her
Ph.D. in 1958.

While working at the Institute, she had the oppor-
tunity to meet several Nobel Prize-winning scientists,
some of whom were women. “They were fierce and
competitive,” she recalls. “They represented that early
generation of pioneering women who persevered in
getting scientific training in the 1920s and 30s and went on to have successful careers in research, our
true role models.”

In 1959, Levy returned to Canada to take a posi-
tion at UBC as an assistant professor with a salary of $4,800 per year. More importantly, she was also
given her own lab and office to do research in immu-
nology and microbiology. But her first marriage was
floundering and she left her husband after the birth
of their second child in 1961.
ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS produces books that illuminate the experiences of people of all ethnicities, people with disabilities and people who identify as LGBTQ+. Our goal is to provide reading material that represents the diversity of human experience to readers of all ages. Orca aims to help young readers see themselves reflected in the books they read. As a BC-based publisher of Canadian authors and illustrators, we are mindful of this in our selection of books and have a particular interest in publishing books that celebrate the lives of Indigenous people. Providing young people with exposure to diversity through reading creates a more compassionate world.
Francis Barnard pioneered the northernmost stagecoach line in North America over a 50-year span.

Express ways and means

BY SAGE BIRCHWATER

Stagecoach North: A History of Barnard's Express by Ken Mather (Heritage House $22.95)

He set the stage for the professionalization of this man and his exploits to the level of myth. Troubled by errors of fact that rendered this myth "seriously flawed," Mather offers an accurate telling of this man and his efforts to establish the successful Barnard Stagecoach and Express Company (the BX), later called the British Columbia Express, heralded as the northernmost stagecoach line in North America over a 50-year span.

Mather begins by introducing British Columbia's first expressman, William "Billy" Balou, a colourful and obstreperous frontiersman from Alabama, drawn to the Pacific by the 1849 California gold rush. There he honed his skills carrying letters, newspapers, and parcels of importance to miners in remote camps and returned with large quantities of gold. Balou had the uncanny ability to change his appearance and fade into obscurity as he passed through the landscape undetected conveying treasure. He claimed he never got robbed.

A dozen years earlier wily Yankee negotiators wrested the Fraser River, for the largest town on the Fraser to the outside world and meant as the boundary between British and American territories. James Douglas, governor of Vancouver Island and overseer of the vast Hudson's Bay Company fur empire of New Caledonia, didn't want American acquisitions pushing further north. So, when 30,000 gold seekers from California flooded into the colony in 1858—bringing with them attitudes of manifest destiny and genocide toward Indigenous inhabitants—he urged colonial secretary of state Edward Bulwer-Lytton to send more law enforcement.

A few dozen British aristocrats arrived in Victoria with their libraries, wealth and education to bolster the British presence. They were accompanied by the Royal Engineers and the British Navy to add muscle to the fledgling colony. Bulwer-Lytton appointed Colonel Richard Clement Moody to head the 150-strong battalion of Royal Engineers, as well as Matthew Baillie Begbie as judge, and Chartres Brew as inspector of police.

Mather explains how another class of British loyalists also arrived from eastern Canada. Though considered crass by members of the British upper crust, these Canadians with their strong work ethic, possessed a strong aversion to becoming American.

Francis Jones Barnard's son Francis Stillman Barnard also played an important role in the stagecoach enterprise. A man with a strong business sense, the younger Barnard took on more duties of the company as his father got into politics, first as a member of the colonial legislative council, then as a member of parliament in Ottawa. Barnard Sr. was a strong proponent of Canadian unity. He initially proposed a stagecoach route linking British Columbia to eastern Canada. Instead, a railroad was proposed, but F.J. Barnard got behind that initiative.

"When the combined Colony of British Columbia voted in favour of joining Canada, it was the support from the mainland that clinched the union," Mather says. "For this reason, Barnard can truly be considered a Father of Confederation."

Sage Birchwater contributes regularly from Williams Lake on subjects pertaining to the B.C. Interior.
over the planet as the mania for build-
ing railroads opened up the ‘dark con-	inent’ of North America, Africa, Asia and
eastern Russian to questionable develop-
ment by the so-called civilized nations who could afford them.

Everywhere the steel rails went, worth-
less wilderness was magically trans-
formed into prime real estate, peoples who had lived there for mil-

denia were dispossessed by legal
flat, (backed up with gunpowder) and
derate land-hungry immigrants get

fenced of their maenge lif’s savings
like hick rubes on a carnival midway.

Vancouver was not unique in this
pect. 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 sild-marked underwear on
the Lion’s Gate Bridge in this ap-
palling account of the machinations of
Vancouver’s early city fathers.

★ TAKING AIM FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLEECING
of British author Rudyard Kipling.
In his book 

(land of Destiny) in 1892.

He was so pleased that he purchased a town lot in the Mt. Pleasant area (subdivision

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 its not on a
clip 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

miniciculo patio of your North Van-
couver townhouse coldly shaded by a
dozen other such units, or in the ‘bonus
room’ over the double garage of your
Surrey stucco crackers-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 ag-
gressively expansionist United States;
or they could hook 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 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 lobbed for
the site of the Canadian Pacific Railroad
terminals, to the first mayors and city
aldermen who were among the fore-
most property speculators, right up to
the dubious sale of the Expo 86 lands
on False Creek to offshore billionaire
Li Ka 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
everyone to us all in the ways of the world.

978-1-77214-184-3

John Moore tends his gardens in the Garibaldi Highlands. Realtors are fore-
warned not to knock.

★ TAKING AIM FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLEECING
of British author Rudyard Kipling.
In his book

(land of Destiny) in 1892.

He was so pleased that he purchased a
town lot in the Mt. Pleasant area (subdivision

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 its not on a
clip 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

miniciculo patio of your North Van-
couver townhouse coldly shaded by a
dozen other such units, or in the ‘bonus
room’ over the double garage of your
Surrey stucco crackers-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 ag-
gressively expansionist United States;
or they could hook 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 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 lobbed for
the site of the Canadian Pacific Railroad
terminals, to the first mayors and city
aldermen who were among the fore-
most property speculators, right up to
the dubious sale of the Expo 86 lands
on False Creek to offshore billionaire
Li Ka 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
everyone to us all in the ways of the world.

978-1-77214-184-3

John Moore tends his gardens in the Garibaldi Highlands. Realtors are fore-
warned not to knock.
Gold in British Columbia

Marie Elliott

Elliott takes readers through the gold rushes of British Columbia from 1858 to BC’s entry into Confederation in 1871, explaining their central importance to Canada’s history and allowing us to meet the miners, First Nations peoples, Hudson’s Bay Company traders, the governors, Royal Engineers, and the brave women who trekked over the mountains. With 50 photos & maps.

978-1-55380-517-5 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-518-2 (EBOOK)  400 pp  $24.95

St. Michael’s Residential School

Nancy Dyson & Dan Rabenstein

One of the very few accounts of life in a residential school by caregivers who witnessed the shocking discipline, poor food and harsh punishment for the children’s use of their native language.

978-1-55380-623-3 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-624-0 (EBOOK)  220 pp  $24.95

Out of the Dark

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

This collection of poems describes Lillian Boraks-Nemetz’s journey out of the darkness experienced by a Holocaust survivor and into a world where “the glow of marigolds [is] lighting your path to my love.”

978-1-55380-632-3 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-633-0 (EBOOK)  88 pp  $17.95

Riding the Continent

Hamilton Mack Laing

One of Canada’s first environmentalists records his experiences as a motorcycle-naturalist as he rides one of the earliest Harley-Davidsons on a 1915 cross-North America tour. With 40 photos.

978-1-55380-556-4 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-557-1 (EBOOK)  228 pp  $19.95

Sick Witch

Crystal Hurdle

Crystal Hurdle takes the reader on a journey through the hallucinatory terrain of medical afflictions — with bizarre images from pop culture — in poems that explore the connections between physical and mental illness.

978-1-55380-626-4 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-627-1 (EBOOK)  100 pp  $17.95

Service on the Skeena

Geoff Mynett

Service on the Skeena describes the life of Horace Wrinch, who served as the first resident doctor in the northern interior of BC, treating the Wet’suwet’en people and helping build a hospital with his own hands. With 50 photos and maps.

978-1-55380-575-5 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-576-2 (EBOOK)  450 pp  $21.95

Moon Madness

Alan Tipp

This superb biography recounts how Dr. Louise Aall went alone to the interior of East Africa in 1939 to build a clinic to treat “moon madness” (epilepsy), which continues to operate today. With 55 photos.

978-1-55380-593-9 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-594-6 (EBOOK)  230 pp  $21.95

FOR YOUNG READERS

Firebird

Glen Huer

A crossover novel about a Ukrainian boy during WWI who learns that his brother has been sent to an internment camp for enemy aliens. Will he save his brother from the camp’s deadly conditions?

978-1-55380-587-8 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-588-5 (EBOOK)  290 pp  $12.95

The Girl of Newgate Prison

David Starr

Libby has been sent to Newgate Prison for helping her brother when he defended her from an assault by a Peer of the Realm. She now faces the noose but is saved by the great prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry.


L’île perdue d’Atlantide

Philip Ray

In the second novel of the French series “Un rebelle en sous-marin”, Alfred takes his home-made submarine into the Mediterranean in search of the lost continent of Atlantis avec d’incroyables aventure.

978-1-55380-599-1 (PRINT)  978-1-55380-600-4 (EBOOK)  250 pp  $12.95  FRENCH LANGUAGE

Youpi en vacances

Philip Ray & Andrea Torrey Baliana

Wonderfully touching full-colour illustrations tell how Youpi, the pocket mouse, informs his friend Jean that he wants an exotic vacation (Quelle sera leur destination?)

978-1-55380-605-9 (HARDCOVER)  32 pp  $12.95  FRENCH LANGUAGE

Available from your favourite bookstore or order from PGC/Raincoast
Visit our website: www.ronsdalepress.com

21 BC BOOKWORLD • AUTUMN 2020
ucked into the pages of Geoff Mynett’s biography, Service on the Skeena: Horace Wrinch, Frontier Physician, is the story of how the citizens of Hazelton woke up in the early summer of 1906 to a double murder. Everyone assumes the killer is the respected Gitxsan businessman and trapper Simon Gunanoot; no one appears to care. Rather than face an all-white jury, Gunanoot evades arrest by escaping with his parents, his wife Sarah, their two children, another child she had had with a previous partner, as well as his brother-in-law Peter Himadan and his wife.

“Life was extinct.” These three dispassionate words were noted by the attending physician Horace Wrinch as he examined the first murder victim. He would regrettably repeat them only hours later when a second body was discovered.

Gunanoot hid in the deep woods only to reappear back in town every now and then to replenish his supplies and occasionally have a few drinks. He also brought his children to the village’s hospital where they were seen and treated by Horace Wrinch. In absence, like the rest of the townspeople, he, too, was aiding and abetting the fugitive group. He had taken a physician’s oath to help people; and his Methodist training emboldened him, but what was his obligation to the Provincial Police?

Wrinch is sometimes mentioned in those trade paperback B.C. histories found scattered around gift shops in provincial parks and wire racks in service stations. They generally only state what Wrinch did, not who he was. Gunanoot hid from law enforcement for thirteen years before surrendering, only to be acquitted of the murder charges. This famous B.C. outlaw story, on par with the so-called “Gentleman Bandit” Bill Miner, has been told extensively elsewhere, most notably in David Ricardo Williams’ classic Trapline Outlaw: Simon Peter Gunanoot (1982) in which we learn Gunanoot had killed the two white men because he was offended by one man’s disparaging remark in reference to either his wife or the morality of Gitksan women in general.

This well-known Gunanoot story is mentioned almost in passing in Service on the Skeena. There is so much more to know about the physician rather than the outlaw.

Horace Wrinch arrived in Canada in 1880, and he came to B.C. in 1900. Being raised on a farm in England, there was no notice or record of him being a wunderkind. He farmed again in Ontario with his brother.

Methodism spoke to him and he hoped to represent the Church as a missionary. His capacity for learning was matched with an overriding aptitude for healing. He graduated as a doctor and later as a surgeon from Trinity Medical College in Toronto in 1899.

Mynett frequently reminds readers that Horace Wrinch was an immigrant farmer, landowner and agriculturist before he trained to be a Methodist minister, missionary, physician and surgeon. In all his pursuits, he was evidently indefatigable.

According to Mynett, Wrinch was “often found asleep on the side of the road in his cutter [automobile], wrapped in fur robes. After being out on all-night calls, he would be back in the hospital at 6 a.m.”

The impression that builds is that Horace Wrinch was always a man of action:

• Upon leaving the creature comforts of Ontario and arriving in the
Dr. Horace Wrinch earned a reputation for not distinguishing between the Whites and the Indigenous people in his hospital.

In 2019, Geoff Mynett and his wife Alice, a Wrinch granddaughter, donated Dr. Horace Wrinch’s oscilloscope and his 19th century copy of the *Encyclopaedia of Medicine* to the Bulkley Valley Museum.

In this accessible and superbly written work, Geoff Mynett brings the human side of Horace Wrinch to life in this accessible and superbly written work.

Mike Selby reviews non-fiction titles from Cranbrook.

Wrinch family home on the right, foreground, with the hospital on the left.

Dr. Horace Wrinch at St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto.

wilderness of Northern B.C., Wrinch built Hazelton’s first hospital (designing and constructing it himself). This first hospital in the northern interior served an area from Attlin in the north down to the Cariboo, and from Port Essington on the coast to Edmonton. The hospital in Hazelton is now named in his honour.

- Before roads and the railroad could reach Hazelton, Wrinch constructed an accredited nursing school and operated a prosperous hospital farm.
- He became an elected magistrate and president of the B.C. Medical Association, which he also co-founded. He was elected as an MLA in 1924, all the while being a loving husband and father to five.
- He was head of the Red Cross in Hazelton during the First World War, he helped set up the B.C. Hospitals Association and he served as its president for two terms.
- He was one of the first people who championed public health insurance in British Columbia, designing a health insurance plan for his community.
- When he felt he could no longer practice medicine effectively without an X-ray machine, Wrinch raised the money for it by personally canvassing door to door.
- When the Spanish flu pandemic hit British Columbia, killing 4,000 in 1919-1920, Horace Wrinch inoculated the village of Hazelton with anti-influenza serum, against the advice and wishes of the provincial health authorities.

Histories written by a family member are typically unreadable vanity projects of interest only to the author’s immediate family, and even that is not guaranteed. Mynett, a retired lawyer who is married to Wrinch’s granddaughter Alice, is too good a writer to follow suit. He manages to be an insider who can also write from a distance, creating an immensely fascinating narrative about a remarkable healer who brought and often forced change during exceedingly challenging times and circumstances. Geoff Mynett brings the human side of Horace Wrinch to life in this accessible and superbly written work.
The Fall Book Club with Yaa Gyasi

Spend your Fall reading Transcendent Kingdom and then take part in a virtual face-to-face with this acclaimed author.

Join the Vancouver Writers Fest on Sunday, November 15 for a special Book Club event with Yaa Gyasi, author of the acclaimed Homegoing and undoubtedly one of the most exciting novelists of her generation.

Interviewed by CBC The Current’s Matt Galloway, Gyasi will discuss Transcendent Kingdom, the anticipated follow-up to her first national bestseller.

This is sure to be a highlight of the season—perfect for other Book Clubs to join, too.

Sunday, November 15
3:00pm PT, online
Tickets (includes book): $32
writersfest.bc.ca

BY PORTIA PRIEGERT

Big Promises, Small Government: Doing Less with Less in the BC Liberal New Era by George Abbott

Big Promises, Small Government: Doing Less with Less in the BC Liberal New Era by George Abbott (UBC Press $32.95)

Abbott served as the Shuswap MLA for seventeen years, including twelve years as a cabinet minister. George Abbott says he never planned to write about his time in government.

He says his focus instead during the so-called New Era under Premier Gordon Campbell—from 2001 to 2005—was “day-to-day survival” as he led a large ministry through “daunting” budget cuts.

Having retired from politics in 2013 and pursued a UVic doctorate in political science, Abbott says he was initially reluctant to revisit what he has called his “least favourite period” in politics.

The committee overseeing his studies, however, convinced him it was an important story to tell. Now UBC Press is bringing his research on the Campbell era to a wider audience.

The basic premise in Big Promises, Small Government: Doing Less with Less in the BC Liberal New Era is that Campbell’s 25-per-cent cut to personal income taxes, announced soon after the Liberals’ 2001 landslide victory, ultimately led to social services cuts that hit some of the province’s most economically and socially disadvantaged people.

But don’t expect the kind of salacious, even-the-score political firestorm we’ve come to expect from south of the border during the Trump presidency. Abbott is not dishing dirt. Instead, this is an earnest and scholarly enterprise, that will mostly excite policy wonks.

“Although the tax break was undoubtedly popular among many British Columbians,” Abbott writes, “few understood that it would come at a very high cost.”

Abbott says the cut was motivated by Campbell’s “ideological zeal” and its magnitude was not specified during the election campaign. Ultimately, it would mean relinquishing $1 billion in revenues. It was followed, seven weeks later, by another $1 billion cut to corporate taxes.

Taking a page from the neoliberal playbook, Campbell wrongly assumed economic growth would make up the shortfall. Meanwhile, a slowing global economy, with declining energy and commodity prices, pushed the government another $2 billion in the hole and “extinguished any prospect of a magical made-in-B.C. turnaround,” Abbott writes.

With resource ministries such as Forests and Agriculture struggling, and his election commitments to spare Health, Education and Higher Education, Campbell tried to balance the budget through major cuts to social programs, even those for children and families, whom he had promised to protect.

A large section of Big Promises examines the cost-cutting consequences for three ministries—Human Resource, Children and Family Development, and the portfolio Abbott oversaw, Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services.

News stories from those days detailed the turmoil—there were cuts to child protection, tough new policies for welfare recipients, a freeze on social housing and much more.

In the words of Seth Klein, the B.C. director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a non-partisan social justice research group, it all amounted to a “transfer of income from the poor (in program cuts) to the wealthy (who disproportionately benefit from the tax cuts).”

Campbell’s leadership style is assessed bluntly: “Gordon Campbell despised indecision and was particularly impatient with long debates on matters on which he had already formed his conclusions. He preferred to act before doubters and naysayers could crowd his path.”

Readers—who will bring their own politics and prejudices to the book—must figure out how to square a scholarly analysis with the fact that Abbott was a key player in enacting the measures.

Abbott did leave the Liberal party in 2015, but not before serving two more terms and running unsuccessfully for...
Big promises and big lies of the Gordon Campbell government are examined by former Liberal cabinet minister George Abbott.

In his foreword, Vaughn Palmer, a longtime provincial affairs columnist for the Vancouver Sun, describes the book as “a cautionary tale.” Indeed.

Perhaps, more than anything, I finished Big Promises feeling melancholy about the havoc needlessly wreaked on the lives of people struggling—whether due to health issues, the repercussions of childhood poverty and trauma, or the systemic biases we are increasingly hearing about in public discourse—often through no fault of their own.

I found myself thinking again about the potential of proportional representation to temper the rash impulses of those drawn to power. Abbott uses the phrase “prescription before diagnosis” to describe Campbell’s approach to governing. Perhaps we should carry that feeling melancholy.

While Big Promises is readable enough for the layperson, it lacks the descriptive passages and human interest a journalist might use to set the scene and tell a story.
Singing in secret

Nazanine Hozar’s epic novel will haunt you.

Thus far, Aria has landed on many “must-read” lists and been nominated for the 2020 Amazon Best First Novel Award and the 2020 Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize.

Aria is the kind of vivid and powerful storytelling that grabs you by the throat on page one, holds you up against the wall for days (and well into the nights) and only lets you drop on the final page.

The stories within these pages will likely haunt you for ages. When you next hear the word ‘Tehran,’ you will think of a half-starved little girl locked out of her house, huddled high up on a balcony.

Or the army truck driver who found that little girl as an infant, abandoned in a reeking alley, surrounded by waiting street dogs.

Or the neighbour’s boy with a cleft palate who makes bead bracelets for her.

The setting is Iran between 1953 and 1981, twenty-eight turbulent years which encompass the lavish oil-funded reign of the last Shah, the era of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the return from exile and rise to power of Ayatollah Khomeini.

The structure of the novel follows the child Aria and her relationships with her birth mother, her stepmother and her adoptive mother. The novel is further developed by the relationship Aria has with Behrouz, the gentle truck driver, the only father figure she has known throughout her life, as well as his relationship with an upper-class young man, an army captain, who ends up in prison during both regimes.

We also meet an Armenian school boy called Hamlet and Mitra, a girl who is his best friend. They both befriend Aria but years later betrayal among the trio is inevitable.

The protagonist accepts the nickname Aria given to her by Behrouz, the truck driver. Behrouz was beaten by his father for his “delicate ways.” Then he was married off to a relative nearly twice his age, only to learn she had a thieving son who was several months older than him.

“I used to sing in secret,” says Behrouz, “so my father wouldn’t know. I used to sing arias... Little tales, cries in the night. If you sing an aria, the world will know all about you. It will know your dreams and secrets. Your pains and your loves.”

Nazanine Hozar writes about complicated and often desperate people trying to survive dangerous times. Hence the meaning of an aria, bestowed as a name for a neglected child who becomes an educated young woman, permeates and echoes among all the lives within this aptly named novel.

Although it’s packaged as fiction, it’s a powerful, eye-opening portrait of the artist as an anguished man who tried desperately to live by his motto: Against despair.

—Jerry Wasserman, Emeritus Professor of English and Theatre, UBC, editor of Modern Canadian Plays
Aria is like getting gritty dispatches from a journalist who knows exactly how mulberry flowers and their sun-dried fruit smell; how it sounds to hear an ancient festival march through faraway streets as hundreds of men pound their own faces and chests like drums; what a dangerous eye infection looks and feels like; and what a man missing two thumbs has likely experienced in exactly which area of Iran’s main prison.

There is an undeniable authenticity and gorgeous writing, the kind of quote-worthy writing to be found on every page which reveals humanity at its worst and at its best—such as the observation made by one imprisoned character that the trouble with poets was that they wrote beautiful words and then other people went out and died for those words.

The importance of literacy and gaining an education, even if it’s being able to count money well enough to work in a stall in a bazaar, is stressed throughout as child characters or their caretakers struggle to attain it, or worse, block their children or their siblings from being educated.

Hozar pulls no punches when she presents her flawed characters, male and female, as superstitious and stubborn. She depicts the brutal, misogynistic mistreatment of women; as well as the oppression of boys and men suspected of being gay.

We meet the rich and the poor; the generous and the repressed, the vindictive and the selfless—the whole gamut of human qualities in 3-D, from inner fears to outward behaviours.

When the change of political regime gets underway, the complicated multi-denominational religious reality of Iran is revealed in this novel, even as people are scrambling to assign “more Muslim” names to themselves and to their children to avoid persecution.

There are Sunni and Shia Moslems, Christians, Zoroastrians, Jews and Bahá’í characters. Issues of language, education and class are interwoven throughout the book.

Was it better to attend school taught in French, favoured by the Shah’s upper class? Or should learning be conducted in Parsi, the ancient language of Persia from which learned culture and the kingdom of Iran became a nation? Or should schooling be done in Arabic because the only book people ought to read should be the Quran?

At the bidding of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Savak, the secret police to the Shah, are replaced by the Vevak, but their fondness for torture is much the same. To serve their political masters, they seek out and imprison all opponents and significant relatives and then turn a blind eye to legitimate, public, judicial process.

Nazanine Hozar of Vancouver left her birthplace, Tehran, during the war between Iran and Iraq (1980-1988), eventually earning a Masters in Fine Arts specializing in creative writing at the University of British Columbia.

With her stunning debut novel, Hozar deserves the international readership enjoyed by authors such as Afghani-American Khaled Hosseini, author of The Kite Flyer, and other books which explore the complex lives of orphans and families in dangerous times and places.

Caroline Woodward’s A West Coast Summer (Harbour) was nominated for a B.C. Chocolate Lily Award (2018/19). She writes from the Lennard Island Lightstation.

“By making Aria ‘rootless’ somehow, I can then manoeuvre her through the different cultures and classes of Iranian society. This gives the reader a view into these worlds as well, as they follow Aria.” NAZANINE HOZAR
A modern queer tragedy about a pilot’s last words, an interrupted celebration, and the fear of losing everything.

“Utterly engrossing. Coen is a hero for our era, darkly struggling amid the after-shocks of loss, but doing so with dignity, humanity, and passion.”
— TIMOTHY TAYLOR, author of The Rule of Stephens

9781459746428
$21.99 pbk

Published and distributed by GRANVILLE ISLAND PUBLISHING

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

Thank you to the publishers supporting this year’s submissions:

Annick Press • Arsenal Pulp Press • Caitlin Press • Cormorant Books • Coach House Books • Doubleday Canada • Douglas & McIntyre • Goose Lane Editions • Greystone Books • Groundwood Books • Harbour Publishing • House of Anansi Press • Knopf Canada • Mawenzi House Publishers • McClelland & Stewart • McClelland & Stewart • McLelland & Stewart • McLelland & Stewart • Michael Lemon Press • New Society Publishers • Orca Book Publishers • Page Two Books • Penguin Random House Canada • Raincoast Books • Scholastic Canada • Seitureido Press • Touchwood Editions • Tundra Books • UBC Press • University of Regina Press

Available Oct 15, 2020

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now

Available Now
The stutterer and the statesman

Logan Macnair gives us two opposing wordsmiths, one verbal and one non-verbal, the orator and the scribe.

In Logan Macnair’s audacious and experimental first novel, *Panegyric*, we meet a male politician named Valerie Montblanc who wants to be prime minister. On the hustings, he is a masterful embellisher—he can make a verbal bouquet out of a fistful of weeds. *[Panegyric]—public speeches or published text in praise of someone or something.*

To further his political ambitions, he wants a biography. Trouble is, Montblanc can’t write his way out of a proverbial paper bag, so he hires a lifelong stutterer, Larry Mann, who can’t manage a sentence without a stammer but he has an extraordinary vocabulary. It’s an original odd couple: a rich, self-made, older man with enemies and a woefully unsuccessful and unfilled younger man who suffers painfully from psellism. *[Psellism: stammering or stuttering; a speech disorder.]*

As a ghostwriter, Larry has produced one widely-praised biography for which he received zero credit. His biggest public accomplishment to date is attaining the highest score on The Donkey King in the video arcade on the Spirit of Vancouver ferry. The ghostwriter has left his dreary digs on the West Coast and for five months he will live in Montblanc’s luxurious lower suite while interviewing him and completing the book. Larry will be making good money for this gig but once again there will be no recognition in it for him, no glory.

The ghostwriter must remain marooned in his quarters, not welcome to invade the upper chambers of the house. There is a wife who is seldom there, but she is willing to appear as a prop on the hustings. Montblanc is controlling, mercurial and often sarcastic. The politician ricochets from mood to mood, sometimes cruelly mocking Larry’s speech impediment; at other times he can be angry and challenging. It’s almost as if he’s playing with the scribe, saying incongruous and often shocking things out of the blue to confuse him.

Montblanc is controlling, mercurial and often sarcastic. The politician ricochets from mood to mood, sometimes cruelly mocking Larry’s speech impediment; at other times he can be angry and challenging. It’s almost as if he’s playing with the scribe, saying incongruous and often shocking things out of the blue to confuse him.

Larry’s lucrative assignment is turning into a challenge that could well be beyond him. Larry’s panegyric hopes appear to be misplaced. *[Panegyric: marked by the view that all is for the best in this best of possible worlds: excessively optimistic]*

Montblanc wants Larry to write about him in positive colours but then, tantalizingly, he slips the greys and even the blacks into the literary palette. What are the mysteries in Montblanc’s past? Is he stable? And why can’t Macron get off the ground and take control of his life? This plot alone is worthy of a Troll. For a stutterer such as Larry, P’s are especially difficult to pronounce. Dedicated readers with a dictionary at hand will be well rewarded with a serious increase in vocabulary. Macnair manages to segue from each chapter title. Each chapter is a little like eating a bowl of lentil curry—very dense and filling. It took Macnair two-and-a-half years to complete this work, while simultaneously in pursuit of a Ph.D. “The short length of the chapters was inspired by a few things,” Macnair says, “most notably Leonard Cohen’s novel *Beautiful Losers*, which was a huge influence on my book. I borrowed many structural and stylistic cues from it, including his use of short, occasionally abstract, chapters.

While some of them are only a couple pages long, they can be demanding, but my hope is that there will be lots there for curious readers to potentially unpack if they are so inclined.” The P-word chapter titles were not an idea that was originally intended. “It was something I decided to commit to after writing a few initial chapters. I would spend a lot of time looking through these lists of fancy P-words and compiling the ones that I thought were interesting. You would be surprised how many archaic P-words are actually out there.”

“While it came to naming the chapters, I didn’t have a set method in place, sometimes the chapter was fully-written and I then had to find a suitable word for a title that captured the essence of what the chapter was about, and sometimes I started with nothing more than an interesting P-word that I would then use as a jumping-off point for the chapter. “Larry’s speech impediment was not originally intended either. It was only after writing about six or seven chapters that the idea came to me. As soon as it did, the themes and characters of the book became much clearer to me, as did their internal struggles and motivations (and the juxtaposition with the eloquent and well-spoken Montblanc). “Because I don’t have this speech impediment myself, I needed to do a lot of research so that I could accurately depict not just how the condition is expressed, but also some of the internal struggles or thought processes that people who have such a condition may undergo. “As the story goes on, I try to express that, while Larry has blamed his impediment for many of the failures in his life and sees it as a source of shame, he has also been using it as a crutch to mask the true source of his worries.” *Panegyric* has found a good home with Now or Never Publishing, a Lower Mainland literary publisher that prints edge books. Macnair is now hard at work on his second novel, Troll. Perhaps it will feature another polemict.

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.
Self-isolate with Iona Whishaw

After six novels, a detective based in Nelson solves her first case outside Canada while on her honeymoon in Arizona.

Though Lane Winslow’s skills as an amateur detective are empowering, they also make it impossible for her to find the inner peace she seeks.

A Match Made for Murder is a series set mostly in and around Nelson, B.C. during the late 1940s, immediately after the end of WW II. Like any good mystery author, Whishaw has written six novels you don’t have to read them in order, but doing so adds deeper layers of complexity and enjoyment. If you haven’t been keeping up, stack them all beside your favourite deck chair and self-isolate for a summer well-spent.

In a genre more crowded with quirky characters than a downtown hoo, creating one with the charisma to carry a series is tougher than picking a winner in the ninth race. At a glance, Lane Winslow appears to be an attractive but innocuous young Englishwoman who comes to the Kootenays to find peace, as far as possible from five years of stress and privation in wartime London. Winslow’s inherent sleuthing skills are used to complement the work of one member of the Nelson police force in particular, her ongoing love interest, Inspector Frederick Darling.

Under her cool, well-mannered, English reserve, Lane Winslow is as damaged as any veteran who spent too long at what Brits call ‘the sharp end’ of the war. She is one of many resourceful, young women who worked for the Security Intelligence Service (SIS) and the New York-based British Security Coordination (BSC).

It hits close to home as Whishaw says she based the character of Lane Winslow on her mother, who, in real life worked for British intelligence during the war.

In her first Lane Winslow novel, A Killer in King’s Cline (TouchWood, 2016), Iona Whishaw explores an insidious affliction of the spy: the corrosive suspicion that the agency they have loyally served is spying on them and will do so until they take their secrets to the grave, prematurely if they become ‘ unreliable.’

Len Deighton’s detective Bernard Samson and John Le Carre’s George Smiley in Smiley’s People had similar problems. British novelist William Boyd, not usually a writer of ‘spy novels,’ explores this state of life-long unease in Restless. Like Boyd, Whishaw subtly conveys how the trained senses of the secret agent, hyper-acute observation and sensitivity to situations, constantly threaten to become paranoia.

In A Match Made for Murder Winslow seems to have made a truce with her past and succumbed to the instinctive ‘nesting and breeding’ frenzy that possessed WW II survivors, resulting in the Baby Boom of the fifties. She marries the inspector.

Winslow and her newlywed Fred choose to honeymoon in Tucson, Arizona, where Darling’s former boss and mentor is now Chief of Police. The new newlyweds have escaped the cold of November in favour of the posh and romantic Santa Cruz Inn where Winslow plans to relax and spend the holiday poolside with a good mystery. Her plans are interrupted by gunfire. One of the hotel’s wealthy guests has been shot point blank and Lane is second on the scene.

Tucson, in the late forties, is an idyllic Southern town where nothing much seems to happen. Winslow proceeds to find and investigate the sleazy underside of the town, including its police department and the war-spawned American culture of corporate greed.

Whishaw often uses the device of having Inspector Darling and his sidekick Sergeant Ames juggle two apparently unrelated cases that gradually prove to be connected. It’s an old trick, but a good one that allows a writer to employ a larger cast of characters and introduce information asymmetrically, avoiding the linear clue-by-clue plod of formulaic mysteries.

This time, back in Nelson, Sergeant Ames has been left in charge of the department during Darling’s absence. As he investigates a case of vandalism at the Van Eyck garage, it seems to lead directly to the death of the suspected vandal himself. Working with Constable Terrell, the new recruit, to piece together what happened in this strange and unsettling murder, Ames finds that his romantic interest in mechanic Tina Van Eyck creates complications that are more than awkward; they could be deadly.

So, A Match Made for Murder is not just a double murder investigation; it’s a double romance. But what really makes the Lane Winslow mysteries so compelling is that Whishaw gets the tone and mood of the time and place exactly right. Her eclectic mix of remittance men, Imperial refugees and small-town Canadians—all suffering from wounds or moral crises as a result of the recent war—should provide her with plots and characters for many novels still to come.

To the deck chairs, everyone.
Spirits of the Coast

ORCAS IN SCIENCE, ART AND HISTORY
EDITED BY MARTHA BLACK, EDINE KARRICK AND CARY FARNELL, WITH HIRNI RIZZU

“Its luminous, large-format pages offer everything from Haida storytelling to marine biology, all to show our too-often-ignored kinship with this astonishing animal.” — Brian Lynch, Georgia Straight

31 by 24 cm | 120 pages | full colour | 978-0-7726-7768-6 | $29.95 hardcover | $11.99 ebook

www.NewStarBooks.com

———

The Smallest Objective
by SHARON KIRSCH

“Akin to an intricately detailed slide under a microscope, this suite of stories, in fact, a collection of newly discovered memories, is a familial jigsaw puzzle — a series of mysteries, reassembled by way of meticulous research and the outside observation of a writer in her prime.” — Bill Arnott, The Miramichi Reader

5.5” x 7.5” | 178 pages | softcover | 978-1-896949-82-6 | $24.95

Zoom in at Volume One Books | Colica Books | People’s Co-op Bookstore

www.NewStarBooks.com

———

Writing and Reading
by GEORGE BOWERING

“What’s fun to read is the pleasure Bowering takes in writing as ‘an old coat’ — after long years in the writing game, he can laugh at himself. But the poet-professor still has veteran chops and can use an affable, apparently unrelated story to suddenly crystallize his point. ... It’s a useful writing about writing and reading from a guy who remains an indelible part of the scene.” — Trevor Carolan, subTerrain

8.5” x 7” | 39 pages | softcover | 978-1-896949-57-4 | $17.95

Sold at Munro’s | Galileo (isolated books) | Cap Books | Mosaic Books | Laughing Oyster

www.NewStarBooks.com

———

I Am a City Still But Soon I Shan’t Be
by ROGER FAIR

“The wager — the excitement of this book — is how radically and openly we are thrown into the project of thinking and feeling our way through the contemporary — no assumed ‘truths’, no established ‘methods’ or ‘theories’ or ‘ideology’ — just the ineradicable will to resist. Poetry has always been there when nothing else is left. This is poetry on the last stand — but the magic is that it reads as much like poetry as the first skirmish of what is to come.” — Stephen Collins, The Capilano Review

136 pages | softcover | 978-1-896949-93-2 | $24.95

May be purchased from Spoutnik Books | People’s Co-op Bookstore | Cap U Bookstore

www.NewStarBooks.com
When We Are Broken
by Luanne Armstrong
(distributed by Maa Press $30)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

Having lived much of her life on her family farm on Kootenay Lake in the heart of the Kootenay-Columbia basin, issues of land and a sense of place are key subjects in Luanne Armstrong’s writings. “Part of my life’s work has been to truly understand the place where I live and the other creatures that dwell there with me,” she says. “In my daily walks, I focus on the quiet, always changing occurrences of nature.”

Her 23rd book, a collection of poetry and photography, When We Are Broken, follows a year of Armstrong’s daily meanderings, during which she frequently stopped to meditate on her surroundings and take photographs. “Whatever snagged my eyes, is where I would stop and wait and look to see what had asked me to pay attention.”

The photography proved integral to Armstrong. “Often, I don’t see what is truly there until I look at the photo. It’s a way of seeing, a way of going deeper into awareness as I walk.”

Daily walks are key to Armstrong’s physical health as she has heart issues and rheumatoid arthritis. But her frailty is part of her poetry, lending the verses an elegiac character. Armstrong will be presenting the book and her photographs through a multi-media presentation at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson on November 26th. When We Are Broken is distributed through Maa Press and can be ordered through info@maapress.ca.

9780987838414

“Julia Levy’s story of personal and scientific discovery is dramatic, uplifting, and powerful. It is the story of a pioneer and leader who used her great intelligence to overcome difficult obstacles and illuminate the way for others.”

— Linda Salomon Wood, CEO, Observer Media Group

new FROM freehand books

“Equal parts heart-stirring and mind-bending.”
— Jim Bartley

UNIVERSAL DISORDER by Bernice Friesen
978-1-988298-55-9 | 384 pgs | $22.95

“Enchanting! Every time I left the book, I rushed to return.” — Shaena Lambert

ONE MADDER WOMAN by Dede Crane
978-1-988298-68-9 | 360 pgs | $23.95

www.freehand-books.com

VANCOUVER MANUSCRIPT INTENSIVE

VMI pairs writers with professional authors to help develop their manuscripts to the fullest potential in a 6 month program.

Face-to-face or online, writers working in English anywhere in the world are welcome.

2021 Application Deadline
November 9, 2020

Sobel consults and workshops year-round.
vancouvermanuscriptintensive.com

NOW AVAILABLE

“Partisan Odysseys”
Nelson Wiseman
Canada’s Political Parties

“A first-rate observance of a hundred years of hell-raising. It makes you proud to be Canadian.”
— Holly Dean
Blacklock’s Reporter

“A must read for all entrepreneurs, leadership teams, and CEOs.”
— Carinne Chambers-Saini, CEO and Co-founder, Diva International Inc.
Pineapple Express by Evelyn Lau
(Avell Press $18)

If you want an antidote for the COVID blues, try reading this brave, sad book about living every day with depression.

Evelyn Lau talks to herself throughout, like some foreign correspondent taking mental snapshots from an urban prison, occasionally distracted by a spider or mosquito.

“Thirty years ago / you were a homeless teenager, and now / you remember how to live on nothing.”

You waste whole afternoons drowsing / on the day bed like a sultan / bored with the dazzling harem, / waiting for winter.”

At one point, on a Sunday night, she describes three policemen hammering on her door, hands on their holsters, racing from door to door to seek the source of screaming reported to 911.

You answered the door / in your middle age, TV flickering / on mute, in your nightshirt and slippers / at 10 pm — surely even / been born, those years were disturbing / everyone’s peace? Now it’s another / young woman’s turn.

I write my poems — poor ragged things in a cracked and dusty mirror my gift to the few that read them from the poem, The Weekend by David Haggart.

Haggart produced two previous chapbooks of poetry, Signs of Life (Little Soup Press) and On The Way Out (Arashido Publishing) as well as three chapbook anthologies with fellow writers.

Pineapple Express by Evelyn Lau (Avell Press $18)

INSIDE THE monastic

Evelyn Lau’s new contemplative poems are for adults only

A cracked and dusty mirror

After a lengthy battle with alcoholism, David Haggart discovered in 1988 that he had serious mental health issues. It was during this period that he started to write poetry, advised by his mentor Patrick Lane to learn to write “by writing.”

Haggart attended one of Lane’s workshops in Sechelt, found work with an old friend he knew from the time he spent working in the Arctic—stone sculptor Abraham Ruben—and moved to Salt Spring Island in 2000. There, he has written over 600 poems, some of which appear in his first collection, A Curious Happiness in Small Things (Raven Chapbooks $18) about reflections on his family, nature, and the beauty of the North where he spent part of his working life, “savouring the emptiness there.”

I write my poems — poor ragged things in a cracked and dusty mirror my gift to the few that read them from the poem, The Weekend by David Haggart.

Haggart produced two previous chapbooks of poetry, Signs of Life (Little Soup Press) and On The Way Out (Arashido Publishing) as well as three chapbook anthologies with fellow writers.
Elephant seals are thriving again on the West Coast, including a new colony on Race Rocks off Vancouver Island.

Return from Extinction: The Triumph of the Elephant Seal by Linda L. Richards (Orca $24.95) Nonfiction Ages 9-12

BY BEVERLY CRAPP

While driving down the California Coast a few years ago, Linda L. Richards caught sight of a highway sign: Vista Point: Elephant Seal Viewing Area.

Visiting seals wasn’t anywhere near the top of her sightseeing list, but she pulled over for a “quick peek” at a beach below.

From a distance, she thought she was looking at hundreds of dead creatures on the sand. Then she realized they were all seals “flipper to flipper and tail to tail,” lying on the beach companionship, flapping sand. They seemed to be having seal conversations.

She later wrote, “Imagine a creature the size of a small bus, making sounds as loud as an airplane taking off and moving inelegantly—though not always slowly—across the sand.”

Richards was soon hooked on the seals, especially the odd-looking males with their blubbery big noses. “You don’t forget the first time you see an adult male elephant seal,” she recalls in Return from Extinction: The Triumph of the Elephant Seal.

Only mature males have those big, protruding noses which give the mammals their name. They aren’t related to elephants. “As far as scientists can tell, the purpose of the nose is all about breeding,” she says. “The bigger the nose, the more awesome, impressive and scary sounds the male can make. This scares off smaller (and probably less noisy) competitors when establishing their territories.”
The males can weigh over 2,000 kilograms while the females are much smaller at just over 700 kilograms. The females look the way everyones expects a seal to look: “They have large eyes, a smooth head and a friendly expres-
sion.”

Richards took the time to find out that the spectacle she had witnessed was a recent phenomenon. “Not so many years ago, there were no seals on the beach,” she was told by a docent at the Piedras Blancas elephant seal rook-
ery. “Not so many years before that, there were only 20 to 70 northern el-
phant seals left in their entire range.”

Their recovery seemed like a miracle to Richards. She wondered how it had occurred. Overhunting had brought the northern elephant seals to the edge of extinction when they were killed for their oil in the mid-to-late 1800s.

“The records of early hunters de-
scribe huge numbers and easy pick-
ings,” she writes. “The animals could be shot or herded to one part of a beach and clubbed—males, young and old—and no one cared for anything but the oil in the animals’ blubber.”

By the end of the 19th century, elephant seals were scarce. In 1892, a couple of naturalists found nine northern seals at Guadalupe Island off Mexico. “In the name of science, the men killed seven of the nine for the Smithsonian Institution,” says Richards, adding that they considered it justifiable because as one of them explained, the species was doomed to extinction and few if any specimens were in North American museums.

Fortunately, by 1922, the Mexican government banned any further hunt-
ing of the northern elephant seals. Their numbers increased every year from then on. “In the end,” says Rich-
ards, “they protected—and ultimately saved—a whole species.”

By 2020, elephant seal populations have reached nearly a quarter million. They range from Mexico to northern B.C. and the Aleutian Islands.

A new colony has now taken hold at Race Rocks Ecological Reserve in the Juan de Fuca Strait off southern Vancouver Island. Numbering around twenty collectively, every year these elephant seals return to birth and raise pups.
From Where I Stand by Jody Wilson-Raybould (UBC Press $24.95)

Having shaken up federal politics when she went from being a senior cabinet minister in Justin Trudeau’s Liberal government to becoming an independent Member of Parliament, Indigenous leader Jody Wilson-Raybould has published a collection of her speeches and lectures from the past ten years. She is forthright in her analysis of Canada’s colonial past and her desire for a new era of recognition and reconciliation.

Every Little Scrap and Wonder: A Small-Town Childhood by Carla Funk (Greystone $28.95)

Poet Carla Funk grew up in a Mennonite community in Vanderhoof. After publishing five books of poetry, this is her first memoir, a paean to childhood and rural life in British Columbia. Paying tribute to both her church-going mother and her truck-driving father, she uses rich language to create the world that shaped her as a person and writer.

The Survival Guide to British Columbia by Ian Ferguson (Heritage House $19.95)

Having moved to B.C., humorist Ian Ferguson finds the place pretty – but also pretty scary. Here’s his guide on surviving everything from the province’s politics, the locals and the weather, to our food and fashion sense. Some ‘Fergusonian’ wisdom: B.C. is located – “to the left of Alberta”; speaking to B.C’ers, means “not saying anything beyond, ‘I love trees’ and ‘forgive me’; and, you can “tell an outsider (filled with enthusiasm and interest) from a local (full of resentment and ennui).”

Thought-provoking books available on

BC Ferries

Selected by BC BookWorld
After years spent documenting a solitary wolf on Discovery Island near Kelowna, photographer Cheryl Alexander has produced *Takaya: Lone Wolf* (RMD $30). Last year, the wolf dubbed Takaya roamed Victoria’s streets and came too close to urbanites, so the wolf was relocated 100 miles away by conservation officers. In March, Takaya was shot dead by a hunter. A film about Alexander and the wolf was shown on CBC and BBC in 2019.

**B IS FOR BOYD**

The internationally respected environmental lawyer David R. Boyd of Fender Island has debated his political and legal thriller, *Thirst for Justice* (ECW $22.95), about a trauma surgeon whose experiences volunteering in the Democratic Republic of the Congo lead him down a path he never would have imagined possible, resulting in a global manhunt and a riveting trial.

**C IS FOR CUNNINGHAM**

Self-described as *“a white-passing, city-raised Indigenous woman with mental illness who has lost her mother,”* Francine Cunningham of Vancouver writes about residential schools, systemic intergenerational trauma, Indigenous mental illness who has lost her mother claims he was the target of a full Royal Commission due to his politics as well as an assassination attempt by a hitman hired by local whites.

**D IS FOR DERRICKSON**

Grand Chief Ron Derrickson describes *Fight or Submit: Standing Tall in Two Worlds* (ECW 2020) as being “not a litany of complaints but a list of battles.” We learn that as chief of the Westbank First Nation near Kelowna he broke with organized religion initially feeling he was not a good Briton, he offers his reflections on academic freedom and key political developments in B.C. and Canada in *Itineraries: An Intellectual Odyssey* (Ronsdale $21.95). After ten political books and six poetry collections, Resnick recalls initially feeling he was not a good Briton—because he was too rooted in the past, European-focused, and not outdoorsy.

**G IS FOR GIBSON**

Chantal Gibson’s debut, *How She Read* (Caitlin $20), represents the voices of Black women, past and present, highlighting the colonial ideas embedded in everyday things such as storybooks, coloured pencils, paintings and postage stamps. It won the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. Gibson is a Vancouverite who has ancestral roots in Nova Scotia.

**H IS FOR HILGEMANN**

In Judy Hilgemann’s self-illustrated *The Great Grizzlies Go Home* (Harbour $23.95) for young readers, two grizzly bears swim to Comorant Island and surprise the residents of Alert Bay. The bears wander around the town for a few days before conservation officers are called in to safety trap and relocate them back to the mainland. Based on true events, the book has a section on bear safety tips.

**I IS FOR ITINERARIES**

Growing up Jewish in Montreal, Philip Reanick broke with organized religion and moved out west to teach in 1971. After forty years as a UBC political science prof, he offers his reflections on academic freedom and key political developments in B.C. and Canada in *Itineraries: An Intellectual Odyssey* (Ronsdale $21.95). After ten political books and six poetry collections, Reanick recalls initially feeling he was not a good Briton—because he was too rooted in the past, European-focused, and not outdoorsy.
CROSSING the DIVIDE
Discovering a Wilderness Ethic in Canada’s Northern Rockies
Wayne Sawchuk
Logger, trapper, conservationist, Sawchuk’s journey to protecting the Muskwa-Kechika wilderness area is packed with edge-of-your-seat stories involving a wounded bear, a blinding snowstorm, a partially submerged snowmobile and jumping onto a mountain from an airborne helicopter.
9780982890661 $21.95 Creekstone Press

Understanding First Nations
The Legacy of Canadian Colonialism
Dr. Ed Whitcomb
A must-read book aimed at non-Indigenous Canadians who want a better understanding of the background and current issues that have arisen over the past 150 years between First Nations and the settler population. The book is clearly focused on First Nations and the many problems they face in Canada.
9780886596742 $19.95 From Sea to Sea

BC Bestsellers!
by Colleen MacDonald
These beautiful route guides have something for everyone whether on a bike or on foot - cycle, run, hike or walk!

Let’s Go Biking OKANAGAN and Beyond
Easy Rides, Hikes, Walks & Runs
9781775308126 $29.95 Let’s Go Biking
Also available:
Let’s Go Biking Around VANCouver
Easy Rides, Walks & Runs
9781775308102 $24.95 Let’s Go Biking

Let’s Go Biking

Men's Journal

WHO’S WHO

J IS FOR JESSUP
As a child, Sharon Kirsch had a penchant for reading in the closet and she liked cataloguing her tiny, plastic animals like pink alligators, blue beavers and purple bisons. The protagonist and narrator in her follow-up to What Species of Creatures (New Star, 2008), The Smallest Objective (New Star $22), is searching for buried treasure in her now-vacant family home while her mother struggles with failing memory.
978-1-77112-164-4

K IS FOR KIRSCH
Mahtab Narsimhan’s fifth kidlit book is The Girl with the Full Figure Is Your Favourite Celeb (Turnstone, 2002). Martens was a bully at school but the genie is on vacation after working for ten thousand years. The genie wants Kiara to do his bidding. The battle of wills that follows is Mahtab Narsimhan’s fifth kidlit story, Genie Meanie (Ercja $7.95).
978-1-45982-398-3

L IS FOR LEE
Working on a postdoctoral fellowship at SFU, Katja Lee has written Limmelight: Canadian Women and the Rise of Celebrity Autobiography (Wilfrid Laurier $49.99), examining how the rise of celebrity autobiography was used in Canada for image management. Her examples include: L.M. Montgomery, Nellie McClung, the Dionne Quintuplets, Margaret Trudeau and Shania Twain.
978-1-77112-499-4

M IS FOR MCKAY
John McKay is a professional draftsman and authority on the design of ships from the sailing era. He got into writing books while researching HMS Victory, a museum ship in England best known as Lord Nelson’s flagship at 1805’s Battle of Trafalgar, resulting in the oft-reprinted The 100-Gun Ship Victory (Conway Maritime, 1987). His Sovereign of the Seas 1627: A Reconstruction of the Most Powerful Warship of Its Day (Seaforth Publishing $68.95) includes a history and a folio of drafted plans and drawings of the ship’s design from the hull to the sails and rigging.
978-1-5307-6629-8

N IS FOR NARSIMHAN
Eight-year-old Kiara’s grandmother left her a genie in a garam masala bottle. She enlists the genie to help her with a bully at school but the genie is on vacation after working for ten thousand years. The genie wants Kiara to do his bidding. The battle of wills that follows is Mahtab Narsimhan’s fifth kidlit story, Genie Meanie (Ercja $7.95).
978-1-4982-388-3

O IS FOR OSCAR
Oscar Martens of Burnaby started publishing his stories in literary journals at age 17. In 2000, he participated in the St. Roch Voyage of Rediscovery through the Northwest Passage, followed by a year working on coastal tugboats. His first collection of fiction was The Girl with the Full Figure Is Your Daughter (Turnstone, 2002). Martens latest book is No Call Too Small (Central Avenue $14.99), a collection of short stories bound together thematically by relationships with aging parents, campers and partners.
978-1-77161-807-5

Send your input to: WHO’S WHO, 978-1-77161-807-5, Sandhill Books, P.O. Box 209, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5G3, or email info@sandhillbooks.com
Four years ago, we adopted a remote village in Tanzania. With the help of BC BookWorld readers we were able to recently purchase a new vehicle for the community. Now our aim is to build a much-needed local primary school. Father Placid Kindata and the villagers have already made thousands of bricks for it.

HELP Luhombero Project #2

We are asking our readers to collectively match a $5,000 kickstart donation to this school building project made by one of our long-time readers, Yosef Wosk.

There are three ways to donate.
1. via Paypal to helpluhombero@yahoo.com
2. send a cheque to BC BookWorld
3. for a tax receipt, go to Canada Helps, (www.canadahelps.org), choose Provision Charitable Foundation*, and select Luhombero Primary School from the drop-down menu.

Schools in Tanzania are expensive. There is no nearby school in Luhombero. Transportation is difficult and expensive. It is common to have 120 students in one classroom.

To learn more about Luhombero and the school project, please visit: www.helpluhombero.org

Thank you,
Beverly Cramp, publisher, BC BookWorld
Alan Twigg, founding publisher, BC BookWorld
Poetry Chapbook Series Launched

A CURIOUS HAPPINESS
IN SMALL THINGS

POEMS BY DAVID HAGGART

Like all great poetry books, you can’t read just one of these poems. You will be drawn in by the compassion and wisdom and after every poem you will want to pause and reflect...

—Robert Hills, author of Shimmer and Don’t Hang Your Soul On That

Raven Chapbooks
An imprint of RAINBOW Publishers
Available at Salt Spring Books and by email: diana@dianahoyes.ca
978-0-9734408-3-6  47pgs   $18

Labyrinth of Green

POEMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY DIANA HAYES

Find yourself on a path entering a tunnel of branches, the ground damp, each leaf and stone finely articulated. These are textured poems, sprouting out from their sources of difficulty, grief and love, rich with details so precise we recognize their origins…. Every page in this book has such beauty, its place in the green labyrinth: “Winter’s old stream bed a semaphore of rock/spreading like a fan toward the wetlands.”

—Theresa Khilkan, author of seventeen books including The Weight of the Heart

TIDEWATER

THE WEIGHT OF THE HEART

POEMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY DIANA HAYES

Available online: plumleafpress.com
ISBN: 978-1-4869-3270-2   103 pgs   $22.95

U IS FOR UMINGMAK

Umingmak is Inuit for muskox and represents strength, authority and protectiveness. It was also the Inuit’s nickname for Stuart Hodgson, the first resident commissioner of the Northwest Territories in 1967. Umingmak: Stuart Hodgson and the Birth of the Modern Arctic (Tidewater $29.95) by Jake Ootes tells how Hodgson co-founded the Arctic Winter Games, organized three royal visits to the NWT, united the territory’s communities and met Justin Trudeau as a boy.

978-1-77701010-0

V IS FOR VANCOUVER

Popular historian, Eve Lazarus adds another title to her list of true crime stories, cold cases and non-traditional histories with Vancouver Exposed: Searching for the City’s Hidden History [Arsenal $32.95]. From eccentric museums, buried houses and belly-flop competitions to nudist camps, Lazarus explores Vancouver’s neighbourhoods with equal measures of humour and pathos.

978-1-5513-420-9

W IS FOR WARRIOR

With endorsements by Tom Wayman, Kate Braid and Howard White, Disappearing Minglewood Blues (Mother Tongue $19.95) by M.C. Warrior, is, according to White, a reminder of “a whole world of experience out there that seldom makes its way into books, a vivid world of whipping cables, bleeding alders, physical exhaustion and the blessed relief of a quitting time whistle.”

978-1-896947-78-9

Z IS FOR ZSUZSI

After hearing a deathbed confession from a cousin, lapsed Catholic Lucy suddenly becomes bombarded with guilty admissions from other people as they unburden themselves to her in Zsuzsi Gartner’s debut novel, The Beguiling (Penguin $29.95). Lucy starts enjoying the dark stories and is soon connecting them to her own errant past. The Beguiling uses humour to explore blessings, curses, sainthood, sin and mortality. Previously, Gardner’s short story collection Better Living Through Plastic Explosives (Hamish Hamilton, 2011) was short-listed for the Giller Prize. Her fiction has been broadcast on CBC and NPR.

978-1-77160295-2

Also known by his Xenaksialaik name, W’aaxid, Cecil Paul is one of the last fluent speakers of his people’s language. At age ten he was placed in a residential school run by the United Church of Canada at Port Alberni where he was abused. After three decades of prolonged alcohol abuse, he returned to the Kitlope—also called Xesdu’waxw—where he was born in 1931, and there his healing journey began. He is the co-author of Stories from the Magic Canoe of Wa’a’aid (RMB $30) as told to Briony Penn.

978-0-6947-374-1

With an MA in English from UVic, Yusuf Saadi works with form, imagery and sonancy in sonnets and shorter poems in his debut poetry collection, Pluviosphere (Nightwood $18.95). One of the book’s poems, “The Place Words Go to Die,” won the Malahat Review’s Far Horizons Award for Poetry. Locations he explores range from Montreal to Kolkata, from the moon to the gates of heaven.

978-0-6914-7-374-1

Also known by his Wa’xaid, Cecil Paul, was abused. After three decades of prolonged alcohol abuse, he returned to the Kitlope—also called Xesdu’waxw—where he was born in 1931, and there his healing journey began. He is the co-author of Stories from the Magic Canoe of Wa’a’aid (RMB $30) as told to Briony Penn.

978-0-6947-374-1

With an MA in English from UVic, Yusuf Saadi works with form, imagery and sonancy in sonnets and shorter poems in his debut poetry collection, Pluviosphere (Nightwood $18.95). One of the book’s poems, “The Place Words Go to Die,” won the Malahat Review’s Far Horizons Award for Poetry. Locations he explores range from Montreal to Kolkata, from the moon to the gates of heaven.

978-0-6947-374-1

Also known by his Wa’xaid, Cecil Paul, was abused. After three decades of prolonged alcohol abuse, he returned to the Kitlope—also called Xesdu’waxw—where he was born in 1931, and there his healing journey began. He is the co-author of Stories from the Magic Canoe of Wa’a’aid (RMB $30) as told to Briony Penn.

978-0-6947-374-1

With an MA in English from UVic, Yusuf Saadi works with form, imagery and sonancy in sonnets and shorter poems in his debut poetry collection, Pluviosphere (Nightwood $18.95). One of the book’s poems, “The Place Words Go to Die,” won the Malahat Review’s Far Horizons Award for Poetry. Locations he explores range from Montreal to Kolkata, from the moon to the gates of heaven.

978-0-6947-374-1
BC's Book Printing Experts
Building Trust in Client Relations

Island Blue Book Printing
911 Fort Street • Victoria • BC • V8V3K3 • T 250-385-9786 • TF 1-800-661-3332
Family owned & operated for 105 years.

First Nation Books
Annuals
Travel Books
Graphic Novels
Colouring Books

Books...
And So Much More!

A complete book printing & publishing ecosystem.

MarquisBook.com 1 855-566-1937

Facebook: @BCBookLook
Twitter: @BCBookLook
BC BookLook: bcbooklook.com
ABC BookWorld: abcbookworld.com
Thank you to all those workers and volunteers around the province who have kept our libraries and bookstores functional since March.

Greenwood Library director Sasha Tauer (left) and vice-chair of the Greenwood Public Library board Roegan Lloyd are just two of the countless ‘book people’ who have provided due diligence, in a safe way, to continue public access to physical books—our favourite kind.

Meanwhile the More Canada think tank has issued six recommendations to bolster the country’s independent bookstores. These include according public library mailing rates to stores that allocate 20% of shelf space to Canadian-authored books as well as a 10% bonus on sales of Canadian-authored books from independent Canadian publishers.

The two B.C. publishers involved were Don Gorman of Rocky Mountain Books and Howard White of Habour and D&M.

At BC BookWorld we want to commend our more than 600 distribution outlets who are providing you with access to this 40-page, printed edition of the newspaper.

Beverly Cramp
Publisher, BC BookWorld

Correction
I was delighted to read the lovely review of my debut novel, Secrets in the Shadows, in BC BookWorld. However, the subtitle of the review says my father supported Hitler and the Nazi Party, which isn’t true. While Rudi, the fictitious father figure in my book, is a Nazi supporter, my father was just a child of 12 when WWII ended, and he and his family had no love for the Third Reich that had so deeply affected their lives and brought such destruction on the whole country.

Heige S. Boehm
Sunshine Coast

Heige S. Boehm

Letters may be edited for clarity & length.
A treasure trove for book lovers who make it to the end of the Trans Canada Highway. There’s more to Tofino than whales.

Mermaid Tales Bookshop
455 Campbell St., Tofino, BC • (250) 728-2125
mermaidbooks@gmail.com

Top-Grade Arabica Coffees Roasted In The Shop.

Yoka
Coffee, Tea & Honey

#5 - 1046 Mason St. Victoria, B.C. V8T 1A3
(just off Cook Street) 1-250-384-0905

- Hand sorted for premium quality - Full selection of exotic teas
- B.C. honey and Belgian chocolates - Mail orders welcome

www.yokascoffee.com

BANYEN books & sound
An Independent Bookstore in Vancouver for 49 years!

3608 West 4th Ave. Vancouver, BC • 604-732-7912 banyen.com

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”
- Emile Buchwald

Every child can love reading, they just need the right story to spark their passion. From board books and Early Readers to YA and graphic novels, we have a room full of carefully-selected titles. Start their story in The Children’s Bookshop at Tanner’s Books.

Tanner’s Books
at Beacon & Fourth in Sidney • open 7 days a week
250 656 2345 • tannersbooks.com
Only 10 minutes from the Swartz Bay ferry terminal

Time to explore Booktown in Sidney for a great selection of new and previously loved titles.

in Downtown Sidney 7 days a week
More info about Sidney’s Booktown at: tannersbooks.com

Tanglewood Books, located in a heritage building at 2306 West Broadway on the corner of Vine Street, is an Aladdin’s cave of new and used books. We can get your special orders to you within 4 business days, we have a popular and unusual DVD collection, as well as some rare vinyl thrown into the mix.

OPENING HOURS:
Mon to Sat: 10am to 6pm
Sun: 12pm to 6pm
Tel: 604-736-8876
Tanglewoodbooks.ca

Yoka is reading & recommends:
After Life: Ways We Think About Death by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox (Orca Books).
ISBN: 9781459813885
Dr. W. Scott Persons IV with illustrations by Beth Zaiken
Persons and Zaiken
Mega Rex
A Tyrannosaurus Named Scotty
Drs. W. Scott Persons IV and A. John Hejlik

VICKERS & BUDD
RAVEN SQUAW, ORCA SQUEAK
Learn the sounds of the West Coast.

Raven Squawk, Orca Squeak
Listen for the heartbeat of the West Coast in this fourth installment of the best-selling First West Coast Book series by ROY HENRY VICKERS and ROBERT BUDD.
CHILDREN'S (5-12) • $19.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-906-4
BOARD BOOK • 21 PGS • 18 COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS • AVAILABLE

Lilliana and the Frogs
Based on author and illustrator SCOTT TRITCHER’S fond memories of exploring Camosun Bog as a child, here is a humorous story with playful illustrations that will inspire young readers to explore nature—but to leave it outside.
CHILDREN'S (5-12) • $12.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-904-0
HARDCOVER • 8 X 10 • 24 PGS • AVAILABLE

The Great Grizzlies Go Home
Two young grizzly bears play a surprise visit to Alert Bay, BC, in JUDY HILGEMAN’S engaging picture book based on true events.
CHILDREN’S (5-12) • $22.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-880-2
HARDCOVER • 9 X 12 • 32 PGS • 30 COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS • AVAILABLE

The Rainbow Bridge
A Visit to Put Paradise
NEW HARDCOVER EDITION!
Using his gift for creating spunky characters, ADRIAN KAESIG has created a valuable table for anyone who cherishes a pet.
CHILDREN’S (5-12) • $19.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-882-6
HARDCOVER • 8 X 12 • 32 PGS • AVAILABLE

Step into Wilderness
A Pictorial History of Outdoor Exploration in and around the Comox Valley
DEBORAH GRIFFITHS, CHRISTINE DICKINSON, JUDY HARVEY and CATHARINE SFA have compiled a photographic history of early wilderness exploration from Qualicum to Campbell River.
HISTORICAL • $29.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-889-5
HARDCOVER • 9 X 12 • 128 PGS • 240 BW AND COLOUR PHOTOS • OCTOBER

My Life as a Potter
Stories and Techniques
Part memoir, part coming-of-age story and part handbook for ceramists, this full-colour coffee table book celebrates the art of one of Canada’s finest potters, MARY FOX.
ART/MUSEUM • $49.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-887-1
HARDCOVER • 7 X 11 • 240 PGS • 240 BW AND COLOUR PHOTOS • OCTOBER

Dublin Gulch
A History of the Eagle Gold Mine
MICHAEL KATES illuminates the important story of a profoundly significant industry in the Yukon, illuminating the landscapes of the North with varve, detail and affection.
A FIRST WEDGE BOOK • $34.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-901-9
HARDCOVER • 8 X 10 • 240 PGS • 200 BW AND COLOUR PHOTOS • AVAILABLE

Chainsaws
A History
NEW HARDCOVER EDITION!
DAVID LEE worked with some of the world’s leading chainsaw history experts to create this tribute that includes hundreds of full-colour photos.
HISTORICAL • $64.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-869-4
HARDCOVER • 9 X 12 • 304 PGS • 200 PHOTOS AND CHROMA-TEX • AVAILABLE

A Field Guide to Crabs of the Pacific Northwest
GREG JENSEN
PAPERBACK • FRENCH TEXT • 7 X 10 • 176 PGS • 200 PHOTOS AND CHROMA-TEX • AVAILABLE

A Field Guide to Fossils
Dr. W. Scott Persons IV & Amanda Kelley
NATURAL HISTORY • $22.95 • ISBN 978-1-55017-804-0
PAPERBACK • 21 X 9.5 • 90 PGS • AVAILABLE

ROY HENRY VICKERS
& ROBERT BUDD

756.1 x 1185.1