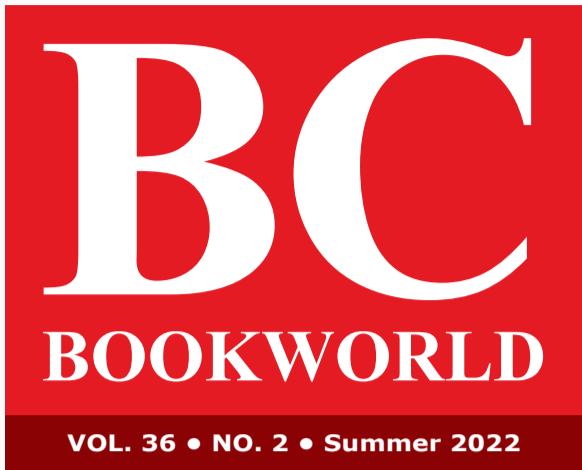


YOUR FREE GUIDE TO BOOKS & AUTHORS



Charles Demers

Comedian, novelist and political speechwriter.

Dr. Annick Boudreau and a nasty blogger seek a missing woman in a corrupt city — Charles Demers' second gritty noir.

see page 6

MYSTERY  
THRILLER  
& VILE POLITICS

MEGAN CLENDENAN

Argues healthy environments are a human right.

24



B.C. HOLOCAUST  
LITERATURE

Keeping the stories alive. 13



HEROIN

Susan Boyd's history of a drug.

20-21

PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT #40010086

OLIVIA LI PHOTO

# CONGRATULATIONS

## to the 2022 BC & Yukon Book Prizes finalists!



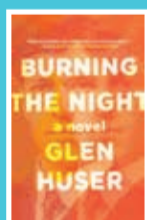
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## CELEBRATING BC AUTHORS

AVAILABLE IN STORES AND ONLINE [NEWESTPRESS.COM](http://NEWESTPRESS.COM)



### Burning the Night Glen Huser

"Probably no one but Huser could, or would think to, combine the Group of Seven, the Halifax explosion, classical music and small-town Alberta to create a symphony of the whole." - Candas Jane Dorsey, *Alberta Views*

When Curtis begins reading a secret lover's diary to his blind aunt Harriet, an obsessed Curtis examines parallels to his own life: his desire to become a skillful artist and to find fulfilling love.

19.95 CAD



### Last Tide Andy Zuliani

"With four emotionally complicated characters and a cunning setting, this detailed story of the power of money pales before the stunning power of nature." - Camille-Yvette Welsch, *Foreword Reviews*

When a lost pair of photographers who rezone lots for gentrification are sent to a rustic island in the Pacific Northwest, a police investigation becomes the least of their problems.

21.95 CAD



### The Cine Star Salon Leah Ranada

"Wry and clear-eyed, this powerful debut by Leah Ranada is an important new work in the literary scene." Hiromi Goto, author of *Shadow Life* and *Chorus of Mushrooms*

Filipina Vancouverite Sophia is most grateful for two things: her modest hair salon and Adrian, her mild-mannered fiancé. When her fiery Auntie Rosy reaches out for help from Manila, though, Sophia is torn between loyalties and obligations.

21.95 CAD



### Tenure Kieran Egan

"An inspired mash-up of academia and the underworld which opens with a Hitchcockian-style hook that grabs the reader and doesn't let go." A.J. Devlin, author of *Cobra Clutch* and *Rolling Thunder*

When sophisticated drug lord Mark Morata's life is saved by an unassuming local professor, he feels honour-bound to give the man his heart's desire. Unfortunately he wants the impossible: get his wife tenure at the university.

21.95 CAD



### A Brief View From the Coastal Suite Karen Hofmann

"Karen Hofmann's novels deserve a place on the shelves of discerning readers across the country." - Kerry Clare, *Quill and Quire*

The reunited Lund siblings, separated as children by Social Services, find that family, whether held together by blood or by choice, can be both a curse and a blessing.

21.95 CAD



### Dominion of Mercy Daniel Neil

"This world is ready, and it needs more of Mary." - Kathryn Cardwell, *Winnipeg Free Press*

When Mary's uncle, a well-to-do solicitor with political aspirations offers her the choice to leave Edinburgh and her tawdry past behind, she takes it, embarking on an adventure to Anyox, British Columbia during WWI.

20.95 CAD



### To Those Who Killed Me J.T. Siemens

"A scorching debut. Donovan is a sleuth to be reckoned with." - Sam Wiebe, award-winning author of the *Wakeland* novels

Disgraced ex-cop Sloane Donovan has relied on her job as a fitness instructor to keep her mental illness and PTSD in check—until she finds a close friend dead, apparently by her own hand.

21.95 CAD

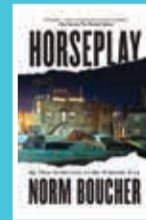


### The Broken Places Frances Peck

"A well-crafted, affecting debut." - John Vigna, author of *No Man's Land*

It's a day like any other—until suddenly it's not. When the earthquake hits, Vancouver erupts in chaos and fear, and a strange assortment of people are thrown together in an oceanfront mansion, the fault lines beneath their relationships cracking through to the surface.

24.95 CAD



### Horseplay Norm Boucher

"True crime buffs will find much to admire in this eye-opening personal narrative." - *Publishers Weekly*

Undercover operator Norm Boucher recounts eight months in 1983 he spent infiltrating Vancouver's heroin scene, a world of paranoia, ripoffs, and violence.

21.95 CAD



### Up the Coast Kathryn Willcock

Kathryn Willcock and her sisters grew up in logging camps on the coast of B.C. in the 1960s when children were set loose to play in the wilderness, women kept rifles next to the wood stove, and loggers risked their lives every single day.

The author's tales of grizzly bears, American tourists, and a couple of terrified gangsters, along with the wisdom of Indigenous elders, pour off the page like warm syrup on a stack of cookhouse hotcakes.

24.95 CAD

# BC TOP SELLERS

**David Spaner**

**Solidarity:  
Canada's Unknown  
Revolution of 1983**  
(Ronsdale \$24.95)

**Gary J. Smith**

**Ice War Diplomat: Hockey  
Meets Cold War Politics at  
the 1972 Summit Series**  
(D&M \$26.95)

**Grant Lawrence**

**Return to Solitude:  
More Desolation Sound  
Adventures**  
(Harbour \$26.95)

**Gillian Ranson**

**Front-Wave Boomers:  
Growing (Very) Old,  
Staying Connected, and  
Reimagining Aging**  
(UBC Press \$22.95)

**Angela Crocker**

**Work From Home Zone:  
Helping Entrepreneurs  
and Employees Integrate  
Work and Life**  
(Self-Counsel Press \$26.95)

**Shelley Adams**

**Whitewater Cooks  
Together Again**  
(Sandhill Book Marketing \$36.95)



Jónína Kirton will be at the Denman Island Writers Festival, July 14-17.

**Jónína Kirton**

**Standing in a River of Time**  
(Talonbooks \$19.95)

**Leona Prince &  
Gabrielle Prince**

**Be a Good Ancestor**  
Illustrations by  
Carla Joseph  
(Orca \$21.95)

**Marie Annharte Baker**

**Annharte**  
(New Star \$16)

**Jesse Donaldson  
& Erika Dyck**

**The Acid Room:  
The Psychedelic Trials  
and Tribulations of  
Hollywood Hospital**  
(Anvil Press \$18)

**Brian Thomas Isaac**

**All the Quiet Places**  
(Brindle & Glass \$22)

**Sage Birchwater**

**Talking to the Story  
Keepers: Tales from  
the Chilcotin Plateau**  
(Caitlin \$26)

**Lee Reich**

**Growing Figs in  
Cold Climates:  
A Complete Guide**  
(New Society \$24.99)

The current topselling titles from  
major BC publishing companies,  
in no particular order.

# PEOPLE



Marsha Lederman will be at the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, August 13.

## Holocaust trauma



When she was five, **Marsha Lederman** noticed that most of her friends had grandparents. She didn't. When Lederman wondered why, her mother pulled no punches —Marsha's grandparents had died in the Holocaust. This frightening and distressing news would take Lederman, the Western Arts Correspondent for the *Globe and Mail* and author of **Kiss the Red Stairs: The Holocaust, Once Removed** (M&S \$35) on a long journey for truth and understanding. Some years after her parents had died, Lederman went through a painful divorce and began to question how her family's horrifying history had impacted her. "The thinking is that trauma experienced by a person can be passed down," Lederman recently told a CBC radio interviewer. "When considering nature versus nurture, there's something going on at a cellular level." Lederman disclosed that being brought up in a sad household permeated her life in a number of ways. "It made my parents anxious and I'm an anxious person. They were suspicious, I'm suspicious. They were pessimistic, I'm a huge pessimist. I'm always waiting for the day to end badly." But Lederman also inherited her parents' resilience. And their humour. "I'm neurotic, sad and angry but I'm also funny," says Lederman. "I joke in the book wondering if Hitler ruined by marriage. [Because of intergenerational trauma] I don't sound like a fun person to live with." *Kiss the Red Stairs* compellingly reveals Lederman's investigations into what her family endured, her need to understand what they went through and how it affected her. 9780771049378

## Baker signs two-book deal

Cree-Metis writer **Carleigh Baker** won the City of Vancouver Book Award for her debut short story collection *Bad Endings* (Anvil, 2017) and was a finalist for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Emerging Indigenous Voices Award for fiction.

That early success has translated into a six-figure deal with McClelland & Stewart for her next two books: **Last Woman**, another short story collection; and **Mudlarkers** a novel about a group of artists and conservationists on a 21-day canoe trip to make a documentary about a threatened watershed in the Yukon and Northwest Territories but are confronted with a challenging landscape. Nature can be cruel.



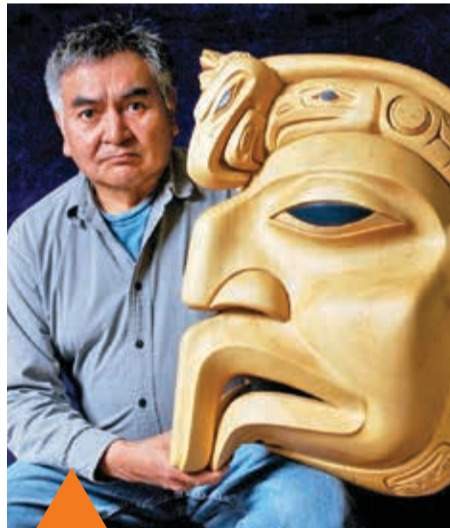
Carleigh Baker

## From dog teams to cellphones

One of BC's renowned carvers, **Dempsey Bob** was born in Telegraph Creek but grew up in Port Edward in the Fifties and Sixties where his parents, along with hundreds of other Indigenous people, found work in canneries. In this rich mingling of cultures, Bob began hearing the traditional stories that would later become so important in his art practice.

"I got to hear stories from my mother, from the Elders at Port Edward, and after we moved down there, from my grandfather **Johnny Sinkkoots**—they all started telling me stories," he writes in **Dempsey Bob: In His Own Voice** (Figure 1 \$45).

Having little money, Bob's family and neighbours made their own fun. "We drew cars and hot rods and fishing boats and wildlife, and we made our own toys," says Bob. "We just got a little knife and started carving. We would look in a catalogue, like the Simpsons-Sears catalogue—we called it the Wish Book—and then we would see something and draw it, and then we would start carving it out. When we were working with wood, we got this really good feeling."



Master carver, Dempsey Bob

Bob recalls in Telegraph Creek his family endured even greater poverty and they had to pack water from a nearby creek for cooking on the stove. "In winter, we used to wait until the water froze and then transport the ice by dog team back to the village. All that stuff. In my life I've gone from dog teams to cellphones."

*Dempsey Bob: In His Own Voice* goes on to cover his artistic development and international recognition; his travels to connect with other artists; and his commitment to ensuring Indigenous traditions as well as innovations continue.

The book complements Dempsey Bob's first-ever retrospective art exhibit, *Wolves: The Art of Dempsey Bob* at the Audain Art Museum from April 2 to August 14, 2022.

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# Summer Reads to Settle Into



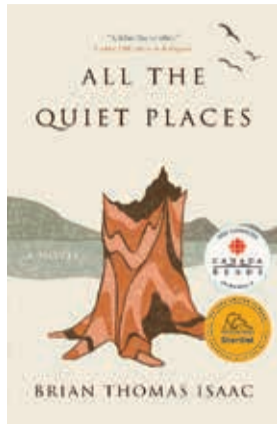
## Framed in Fire

A Lane Winslow Mystery (#9)  
Iona Whishaw

*A Globe and Mail Bestseller*

"Framed in Fire is number nine in this series, a point where many authors begin to flag but not Whishaw... excellent... Definitely one of Whishaw's best."  
—*Globe and Mail*

\$16.95 pb | \$8.99 ebook  
TouchWood Editions



## All the Quiet Places

A Novel

Brian Thomas Isaac

*Longlisted for Canada Reads 2022*

*Finalist for the 2022 Amazon Canada First Novel Award*

"An exceptional debut that not only transports the reader but also transforms them." —*Quill & Quire*

\$22 pb | \$12.99 ebook  
Brindle & Glass



## The Sipster's Pocket Guide to 50 Must-Try BC Wines

Volume 1

Luke Whittall

"The most original wine book you will read this year... a new and thoroughly refreshing way to approach BC wines."  
—John Schreiner, prolific wine writer and author

\$20 pb | \$12.99 ebook  
TouchWood Editions



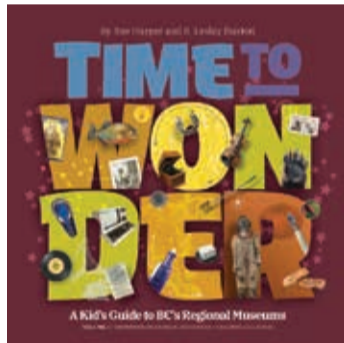
## Fermenting Made Simple

Delicious Recipes to Improve Your Gut Health

Emillie Parrish

"Imaginative and original without being overly complicated... this is the ideal book for both the beginner and the highly experienced chef." —Andy Hamilton, author of *Fermenting Everything*

\$32 pb | \$17.99 ebook  
TouchWood Editions



## Time to Wonder 1 - A Kid's Guide to BC's Regional Museums

Thompson-Okanagan, Kootenay, and Cariboo-Chilcotin

Suzanne Harper & S. Lesley Buxton

A fun-filled family guidebook full of curiosities found throughout the BC interior.

\$22 pb | \$10.99 ebook  
Rocky Mountain Books



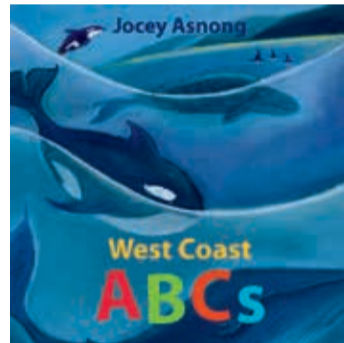
## Time to Wonder 2 - A Kid's Guide to BC's Regional Museums

Vancouver Island, Salt Spring, Alert Bay, and Haida Gwaii

Suzanne Harper & S. Lesley Buxton

The second volume in a growing series of guidebooks for families looking for adventures across BC.

\$22 pb | \$10.99 ebook  
Rocky Mountain Books

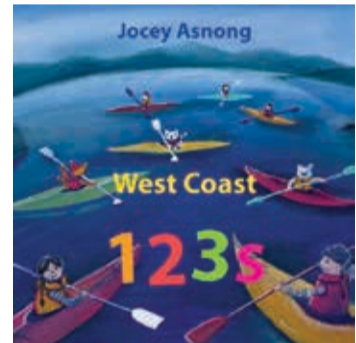


## West Coast ABCs

Jocey Asnong

A vibrant boardbook highlighting a variety of BC locations including Cathedral Grove, Grouse Mountain, Haida Gwaii, Whistler, Wickaninnish Beach, Vancouver, and more!

\$12 bb  
Rocky Mountain Books

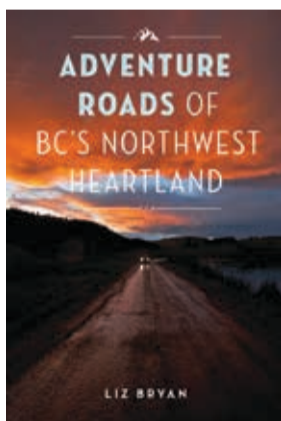


## West Coast 123s

Jocey Asnong

Another enchanting BC boardbook allowing kids, parents, and grandparents to count their way through the Great Bear Rainforest, Stanley Park, Tofino, and more!

\$12 bb  
Rocky Mountain Books

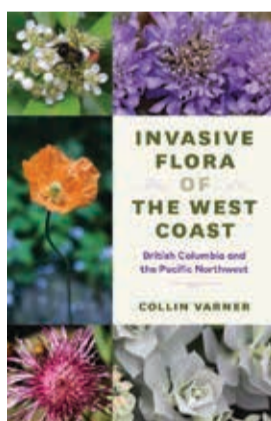


## Adventure Roads of BC's Northwest Heartland

Liz Bryan

An off-the-beaten-track exploration of Interior BC, full of scenic photography, maps, and captivating information for tourists and armchair travellers alike.

\$24.95 pb | \$12.99 ebook  
Heritage House



## Invasive Flora of the West Coast:

British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest

Collin Varner

A compact, full-colour field guide to invasive plant species spreading across the region, highlighting their hazards and uses. "A concise and vivid gem." —Arno Kopecky

\$24.95 pb | \$12.99 ebook  
Heritage House

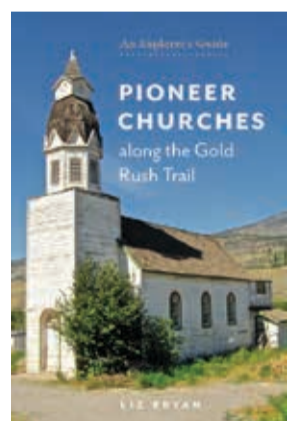


## The Flora and Fauna of Stanley Park

Collin Varner

A concise, full-colour guide to more than 200 native and introduced plant and animal species found in Vancouver's famed city park.

\$24.95 pb | \$12.99 ebook  
Heritage House



## Pioneer Churches along the Gold Rush Trail

An Explorer's Guide

Liz Bryan

A fascinating tour through BC's historical gold rush trails, focusing on the nineteenth-century churches pivotal to the establishment of early settler communities.

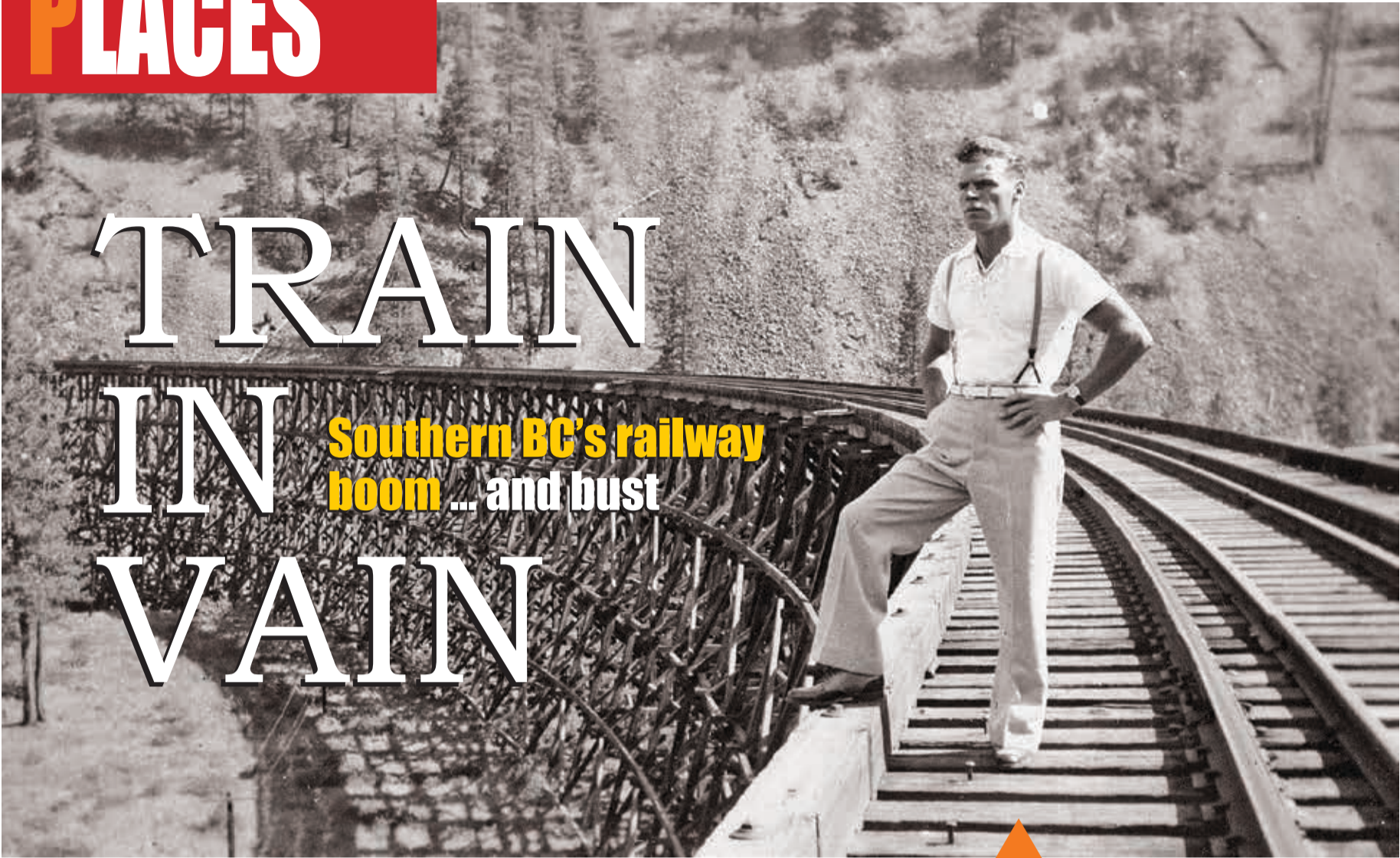
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PLACES



Southern BC's railway boom ... and bust

Before roads and highways, railways were the main mode of transport in BC. And there was money to be made—lots of it. “In the 1890s, the transcontinental railways of North America were racing across the country, feverishly building new lines to access the vast mineral and timber resources in western Canada and the Pacific Northwest,” writes **Terry Gainer** of Nelson in **When Trains Ruled the Kootenays: A Short History of Railways in Southeastern British Columbia** (RMB \$25).

The competition was fierce says Gainer and tactics to gain control of territories were often “less than honourable.” With competitors out of the way, railway companies “could impose ironclad contracts on new developing industries.” Backroom deals and political favours were the norm and when that didn’t work railway owners sought to “control the transportation landscape by ownership of everything in the supply chain; from purchasing connecting steamboat services on inland waterways, buying up smelters, coal mines and mining leases, or, as a last resort, using violence.”

Gainer’s book focuses on the railways that “conquered the rugged landscapes of the Kootenays.” With its gold, silver and coal mines, it was the new “Eldorado,” and the main characters included the legendary **William Cornelius Van Horne** (who led Canadian Pacific), Great Northern Railway’s founder



CPR’s Columbia and Kootenay Railway, the first train to Nelson, 1894. Possibly near Sproat’s Landing, across the river from present day Castlegar.

and president, **James J. Hill**, and **Daniel Corbin** of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railway. These railway barons fought it out but by the late 1950s, the advent of new highways, the increasing affordability of automobiles and the trucking industry took over transportation, and the railways were no longer viable. It was the end of an era.

ONE OF THE MOST PUNISHING RAILROADS TO BUILD IN SOUTHERN BC was the Kettle Valley Railway. “The Kettle River received its name from a series of canyons on the river,” writes **Barrie Sanford** in **Tales of the KVR: The Kettle Valley Railway Remembered** (National Railway Historical Society/Sandhill \$21.95). “Early

The Smelter Flats trestle—part of the Kettle Valley Railway—located in the Copper Mountain Subdivision. Photo by Wilfrid ‘Bill’ Brems (1916–2020), a KVR sectionman. He titled it simply “My Dad.” Every piece of timber in the 765-foot-long wooden frame trestle is slightly different in length, angle of cut and position of the bolt holes. Building such trestles was a monumental task in applied mathematics.

explorers likened the canyons to boiling kettles. Hence, the Kettle River name.”

Sanford, who lives in the former railway town of Brookmere, 44 km south of Merritt, previously spent ten years researching the building of the KVR line for McCulloch’s *Wonder: The Story of the Kettle Valley Railway* (1977) citing the achievements of turn-of-the-century engineer **Andrew McCulloch**. The book has gone through numerous printings. But Sanford kept his notes from the many interviews he conducted with KVR employees and retirees more than half a century ago, and during the Covid shutdown in 2020 re-read and sorted them.

“My interview notes sprang to life with the recollections of real people in real, often challenging situations,” he says. It led Sanford to publish his new book, setting the stories from his original interviewees against the historical context of the engineering feat that was the KVR.

While some of the trestles remain, the only operational section is a heritage railway run near Summerland on ten kilometres of track.

CANOE POWER

**Joe Martin** got his first dugout canoe ride shortly after his birth in the Tofino General Hospital.

“My father picked up my mother and me in a canoe and brought us from Tofino to our home at Opitsaht village,” says the Tla-o-qui-aht master canoe carver in **Making a Chaputs: The Teachings and Responsibilities of a Canoe Maker** (RBCM \$24.95).

Later, Martin’s father taught him how to carve a canoe or chaputs as it is also known. He learned there was more to the art of making a canoe than hollowing out a tree, usually from red cedar, especially with regards to cultural traditions. “If one were to cut down a red cedar too close to any eagle nest or bear den, it would be the Creator who would

take this as an offence and great harm would come to your whole family,” says Martin, adding that his ancestors taught him always to be respectful of all living things. “Nature will provide for our needs, but not our greed!” Joe Martin has carved over 60 canoes for transportation and hunting, but for other purposes as well. In 1984, he took part in the Meares Island Blockade to prevent industrial logging. With his father and brothers, Martin carved three canoes to make a political point: “to demonstrate our use of the forest,” he says.

Martin has also carved canoes for reconciliation and community healing, such as in 2017 when he directed the making of a canoe for the Tla’amin Nation as a sign of goodwill. It illuminated “traditional teachings and cultural history.” The canoe is, as one Tla’amin citizen said, “medicine to our people.”



Portrait of Joe Martin, 1984 by Tsimka Martin.

# THE VILE SNAKEPIT

Charles Demers’ mystery thriller set in the world of Vancouver politics asks who owns the city and who has the right to change it?

Noonday Dark:  
A Doctor Annick Boudreau Mystery #2  
by Charles Demers  
(D&M \$18.95)

BY JOHN MOORE

Two years ago, Vancouver writer, comedian and political activist **Charles Demers** made a welcome debut as a mystery writer with *Primary Obsessions* (D&M, 2020). That novel introduced the psychologist, Annick Boudreau, a refreshing new addition to the roster of amateur sleuths that’s as old as the genre itself.

Once again, the ‘Doctor is In.’ Annick is back in **Noonday Dark**, a tale set in a milieu former North Vancouver councillor and poet **Trevor Carolan** has called “the vile snake pit of municipal politics.” The backdrop is Vancouver where Downtown Eastside social justice crusaders rub up against millionaire west side property developers and both shed their public skins to get down and dirty in the real world of money and power. It’s an arena whose smell Demers knows well from his work with Vancouver’s municipal factions COPE (Coalition of Progressive Electors) and the newer progressive party his wife **Cara Ng** helped create and currently co-chairs, OneCity Vancouver.

Like many young Vancouver professionals, living well in a vibrant multicultural metropolis where daffodils bloom in March, Annick and her partner Philip, former Strathcona juvenile delinquent turned CBC science journalist, don’t pay a lot of attention to the sometimes-sordid political deals that enable their sense of entitlement. And like the unwitting protagonists of classic film noir movies who are drawn into dangerous plots almost against their will, Annick Boudreau is an ‘unwilling agent.’ Neither a hard-boiled

police detective nor a cynical private eye who drinks breakfast, but as a psychotherapist, she is an ‘investigator’ of the dark side of the human mind with a sensitive nose for the duck-and-cover human reaction to dealing with emotions and actions that make us feel ashamed.

In *Primary Obsessions* Annick becomes involved in the investigation of a gruesome murder because her patient is the prime suspect and her

instincts tell her the police are settling for a fall guy that she believes could not have committed the crime. In *Noonday Dark*, Danielle, a young woman Annick is treating for depression, a stand-up comedian hired to punch up the dull speeches of newly elected Vancouver Mayor Alberto Rossi, goes missing, leaving a suspiciously undated suicide note.

‘Berto’ Rossi, an avid cyclist whose trim athletic backside has barely had time to warm Vancouver’s Big Chair, is already un-

der fire for fudging one of his major campaign promises—to eliminate the Knight Street truck corridor to the waterfront. This promise would have the dual effect of massively inflating the value of South Vancouver real estate that Rossi’s wealthy developer/friend has been investing in, and negatively impacting the income of the Satan’s Hammer biker club that controls the route and the waterfront.

The situation is aggravated by Ivor MacFadden, Danielle’s father, a former left-wing journalist who lurched heavily to the right in old age, as many have done, the most disgracefully mercenary examples being novelist **Tom Wolfe** and former *National Lampoon* editor **P. J. O’Rourke**.

Demers sensibly makes the story personal by focusing on Annick Boudreau’s concern for her patient and her refusal to believe that Danielle, who was making progress dealing with depression, would suddenly decide to kill herself. As in *Primary Obsessions* Annick has faith in her patient, (who might easily be written off as a victim of ‘mental health issues’) and that is what drives the story.

Particularly interesting in this second instalment of Doctor Boudreau’s casebook, is the emerging role of her partner Philip. In *Noonday Dark* he’s not the nerdy science geek journalist he seemed in *Primary Obsessions*. There are scenes with his friend from the bad old days, Tony Choi, who is trying to reinvent himself by working for the developer that Rossi is in bed with, and several in which Annick observes the otherwise gentle cerebral Philip furiously hammering the body-bag in the basement gym of their harbour-view condo as if he was fighting six guys in an east side park.

Since one of the guilty pleasures of reading mysteries is the narrator’s acerbic observations of one’s own society, making Danielle MacFadden a stand-up comic, (Demers himself is a stand-up who performs frequently) allows him to get off twice as many one-line zingers targeting his home town. When Annick buys a canned iced cashew-milk latte, she describes it as tasting “like an ashtay smoothie.” In a feeble attempt at virtue-signalling, she shows it to her Jamaican Buddhist colleague at the clinic, Cedric, who observes that she may have found a Buddhist loophole—“suffering without desire.”

The only wise-crack missing from *Noonday Dark* is that nobody in the story refers to the Satan’s Hammers bikers as Satan’s Hamsters. There may be reasons for that. These days in Vancouver, your well-heeled, fashionably-fleeced neighbours may actually be bikers.

9781771623285

John Moore’s most recent book is *Rain City: Vancouver Essays* (Anvil, 2019).



Charles Demers

“I’ve written jokes for both Adrian Dix and John Horgan”

BC BookWorld chats to Charles Demers

Although a fourth-generation Vancouverite on his mother’s side, surprisingly Charles Demers identifies as Québécois, “for the federal funding, obviously,” he jokes. But he does take this identity seriously as, on his paternal side, Demers is an eleventh-generation French-Canadian.

“Demers is a solid Québécois name; it doesn’t exist in France,” he says. “But we also have some Acadian in the mix; my grandmother on the other side, like the protagonist of my novel (**Noonday Dark**), is a Boudreau. So, I have lived in Vancouver all my life, but with a strong connection to that Québécois heritage. I’m Vancouverois.”

He is known for his guest comedic work on the hit CBC Radio show, *The Debaters* that he has worked on since its first season in 2006. It was a dream fit says Demers because he was “a very high-level high school debater” and—“the captain of the Canadian high school debate team at the World Schools Debate Championships in Jerusalem in 1998.”

Demers lends his humor to political speech writing gigs for municipal and provincial politicians. But don’t think he is giving away any gossip secrets about BC’s elected leaders in his latest novel. “I wasn’t interested in making any of the characters derivative of any real-life personalities,” he says. “For example, the character Alberto Rossi, who in the novel has just won the mayoralty of Vancouver, was named ‘Roberto’ in an earlier draft—but then I realized, ‘Wait, people are going to think I’m referencing **Gregor Robertson**,’ which was not at all the idea or my intention. The only thing about Rossi that could be said to come from Robertson is that Gregor was famously very good-looking. Otherwise, the closest thing to real life in the novel is that Dr. Boudreau’s missing patient, Danielle, is a comedian who wrote jokes for the mayor’s speeches during his campaign. In actual fact, I’ve written jokes for both **Adrian Dix** and **John Horgan**—and a couple of Danielle’s jokes are actually jokes that I wrote for Adrian, told in a very similar context to the one in the book.”



Amber Cowie

ROUNDUP

MYSTERIES & THRILLERS

Disgraced ex-police-woman Sloane Donovan, now working as a fitness instructor and struggling with PTSD, finds the dead body of one

of her close friends in **J.T. Siemens’** debut thriller **To Those Who Killed Me** (NeWest \$21.95). Donovan doesn’t buy into the official narrative from the Vancouver Police of the events surrounding her friend’s death and believes something more nefarious is underway. She teams up with a private investigator to find the real killer, setting off on a search that takes them from Vancouver’s wealthy neighbourhoods to its darkest street corners. The two sleuths end up questioning millionaires, tennis instructors, sex workers and former police colleagues. Siemens says this thriller is the first in a *Sloane Donovan* series and was inspired by a real-life murder that happened years ago outside his workplace. The unpublished manuscript of *To Those Who Killed Me* was nominated for the Arthur Ellis Unhanged Award in 2016. 9781774390436



J.T. Siemens

KNOWN FOR HER COLOURING BOOK, *COLOUR the British Columbia Coast* (Harbour, 2016) and the memoir *Drawn to Sea* (Caitlin, 2013), **Yvonne Maximchuk** takes a steep departure in **Murder Rides a Gale Force Wind: An Island Mystery** (SeaRose \$24.95), which has been eight years in the making. Set in the Broughton Archipelago settlement Echo Bay, it draws on Maximchuk’s 35 years of experience in the area. The story kicks off when a local prawn checker goes missing. At first, no one is bothered much until young boaters find a body washed up on a nearby islet. Local residents fall into a quagmire of distrust and suspicion, made worse when the RCMP show up. Rural salt-of-the-earth types are known for taking justice into their own hands. Will the results be disastrous or bring justice? 9781777958503



Yvonne Maximchuk

MELISSA MAKEPEACE STRUGGLES TO RUN THE family farm in **Mad Honey** (Wolsak & Wynn \$22), the debut novel of Kamloops-based **Katie Welch**. At the age of eleven, Melissa’s father had suddenly left the family and then a dozen years later Melissa’s lover and the man she hired as her beekeeper, disappears too. Melissa turns her troubled mind to the farm and lists of chores such as: “harvest pears and tomatoes, clear out bean rows, check on the chickens, feed the goats and the donkey, get an oil change on the truck, clean up the outdoor canning kitchen, go over the farm financials, and on, and on.” But one day, her lover returns, suffering from a kind of amnesia. In this beekeeping farm thriller, Melissa begins to unravel the mystery, which might also reveal what happened to her father. Will the farm survive? And how will Melissa handle bee colony collapse? 9781989496527



Katie Welch

SQUAMISH-BASED **AMBER COWIE’S** FOURTH book, **Last One Alive** (Simon & Schuster \$24.99) follows a team of researchers exploring the myth of a ‘stone witch’ at a remote cabin in the Pacific Northwest. They investigate a story about the original owner, who met a violent death, and his wife, who disappeared. Shortly after, a young couple renovat-

ing the cabin to be run as an eco-lodge also disappear. The investigators, led by a novelist looking for inspiration for her next thriller, are beset by strange happenings such as freak storms, satellite phones that stop working and delayed boats that don’t appear for days. Then some of the investigators disappear and bodies turn up. The team must make a decision to run for it or stay behind and solve the mystery of the stone witch. Cowie is a graduate of the University of Victoria. 9781982183042



Kieran Egan

IN THE FIRST OF **JOAN DONALDSON-YARMEY’S** *Dating Coach Mystery Series*, **A Killer Match** (Renaissance \$20), Jenna Hamilton is a dating coach and the co-owner of a bookstore on Granville Island in Vancouver. Her best friend, hairdresser Hillary, witnesses a co-worker, Bruno, get killed in a car crash. Jenna consoles her friend, but when Bruno’s condo is trashed she investigates and makes some shocking discoveries about Bruno’s life. Just who was Bruno? Did someone intentionally kill him? And what are they after? Joan Donaldson-Yarmey lives on a small acreage on Vancouver Island. 9781990086243

An Indigenous boy grows up in the Okanagan in this vintage time capsule set in the 1960s.

All The Quiet Places  
by Brian Thomas Isaac  
(Brindle & Glass/TouchWood Editions \$22)

BY CAROLINE WOODWARD

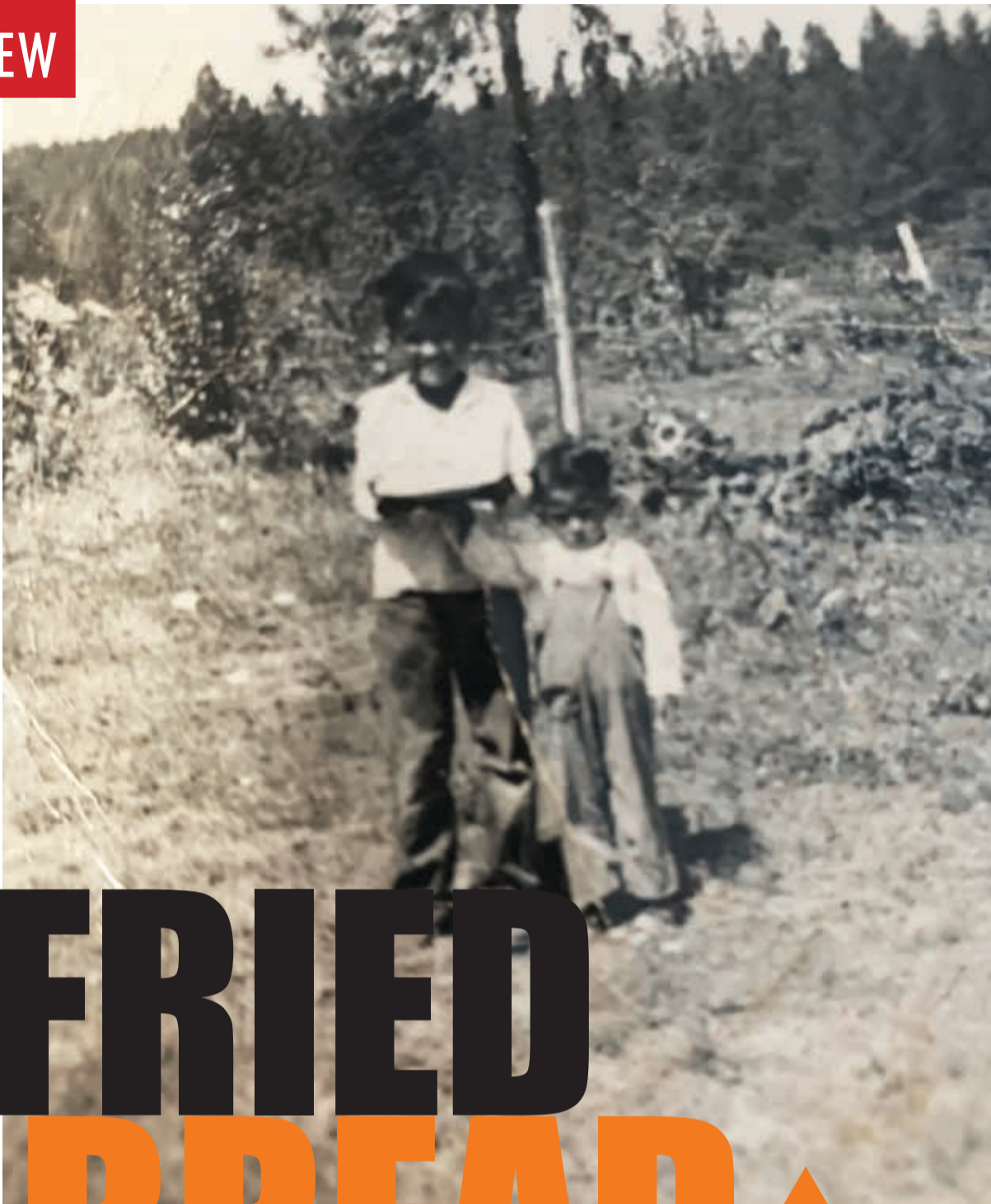
From the very first paragraph of **Brian Thomas Isaac**’s debut novel, we are immersed in the North Okanagan world of five-year-old Eddie Toma who lives with his mother and three-year-old brother in a small, dark, wood-heated house. His Grandma and Uncle Alphonse live a boy’s non-stop run past the woodshed, down “Little Hill Path” and through the pines and cottonwoods. These story-like landmarks, alongside Highway 97 between Vernon and Falkland and the bridge over the Salmon River on the far eastern edge of the Okanagan Indian Reserve, are shown in a useful, large-scale map at the beginning of the book.

Things which initially loom large in this boy’s life—climbing onto the roof to wedge a flattened syrup can between wood shingles to plug a leak, a rare smile lighting up his mother’s face, hot fried bread with homemade applesauce at his Grandma’s, the relief of time alone just watching the river flow without his annoying little brother to look after—are eclipsed by other dangerous realities.

“Like a moth to a coal oil lamp” Eddie is compelled to test warnings from the adults in his life, from loading and carrying a .303 intending to shoot a deer or a bear, to exploring a treacherous bog with another boy. But he also learns from his uncle how to stay calm and observe his surroundings so he will not get lost in the bush. And Eddie’s mother shows him exactly where to run for help if she taps him on the back, should a vehicle with a certain dangerous man behind the wheel appear on their road.

Then there are the adults who make his mother’s nails dig into his small shoulders, like blowhard Uncle Ray, a man with a mean streak. But Ray is hardworking and convinces the family, including Grandma, to join him in the migrant worker camps of Washington’s Yakima Valley. Amidst the heat and substandard living conditions, there are first outings to a movie theatre, his mother smiling so much he “didn’t know she had so many teeth” and then, a terrible tragedy which haunts them all.

Throughout it all, Grace, their fierce, determined mother advocates with the Indian Agent to get electricity out to their home, which she has chosen for a specific reason: so that Eddie and Lewis can take the school bus and attend the all-white Falkland School. She will not have them sent to St. Mary’s Residential School in Kamloops where her brother Alphonse was essentially ruined except that some of his good heart and all of his protective nature survived. The Indian Agent, like all petty bureaucrats, fears most that he will “look bad” to those higher on the perch. He doesn’t mind actually being bad, threatening Grace with taking away her children or dumping their Christmas hamper at the bottom of their unploughed road, declaring he “hopes the dogs don’t get to it.” It’s all because Grace writes letters to Indian Affairs in Ottawa telling them she doesn’t have electricity and nor does her mother and uncle and it’s the 1960s.



FRIED BREAD

Brian Isaac’s 4th birthday with his older brother Charles Isadore. *All The Quiet Places* has been shortlisted for the Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

HOMEMADE APPLESAUCE & PETTY “INDIAN AGENTS”

Likewise, the public health nurse and the RCMP display their specific racist and sexist prejudices of that era.



THE WRITING IS DISARMING yet unsentimental, never didactic or seething with an agenda; a masterful example of showing not telling and of staying true and consistent with the always tricky child’s point of view. Brian Thomas Isaac writes descriptions of a wild horse herd thundering into a valley and of Grandma and Eddie fishing and eating trout over a campfire which are so vivid we can practically hear, smell and taste the dust and the hot, fresh fish. He does not spare the untrustworthy and violent Indigenous men in their lives, from Uncle Ray to their absentee father Jimmy (and Jimmy’s vicious father whose legacy lingers in his son) despite grand declarations of better days ahead. The school experience is buoyed by a kind grade one teacher and Eva, the intelligent daughter of the neighbouring rancher



Brian Isaac with his wife Marlene, who partly inspired the character Eva in *All the Quiet Places*.

who helps Eddie navigate the snobbery of the pecking order. Nobody can protect Eddie from a relentless school bully however, nor his complicity and sheer relief when the school’s first Black student arrives, not even the decent man who is the principal.

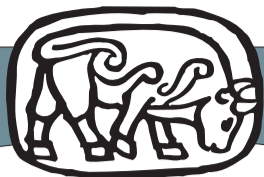
Eddie’s teenage visits to small town Vernon offer a vintage time capsule with an Indigenous twist. Isaac depicts the hierarchy of the two pool halls, the

sex appeal of car hops, and the fumbling missteps of first love, with a ten-cent jukebox soundtrack; or a car on a hill at night where it might pick up a Spokane radio station.

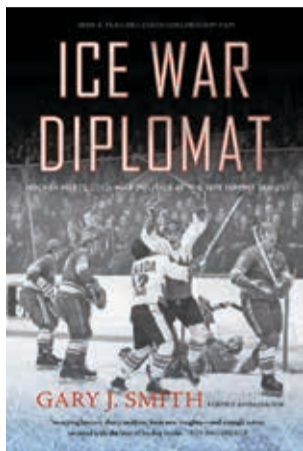
Brian Thomas Isaac was born on the Okanagan Indian Reserve in 1950 and now lives in the Salmon River valley after an adventurous life of riding bulls in his youth “until common sense steered him away,” working in the Alberta oil patch and retiring as a bricklayer. He coached minor hockey, played slow-pitch baseball, and is now a proud

father and grandfather, grateful husband and devoted golfer. He has been writing all his life and I, for one, hope for more great storytelling like this first book which has been highly commended and recognized for its contribution to Canadian literature.

Caroline Woodward’s first book for children, *Singing Away the Dark* (Simply Read Books: 2010, 2017) about walking a mile to the Peace River school bus stop in 1958 is now translated to French, Korean, Bulgarian, Chinese and Japanese.



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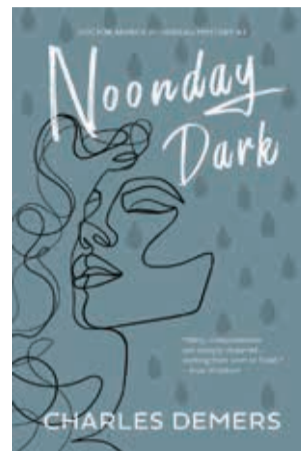
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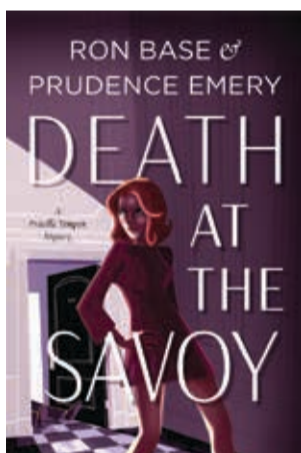
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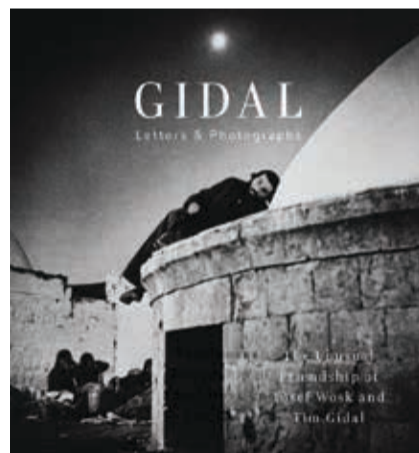


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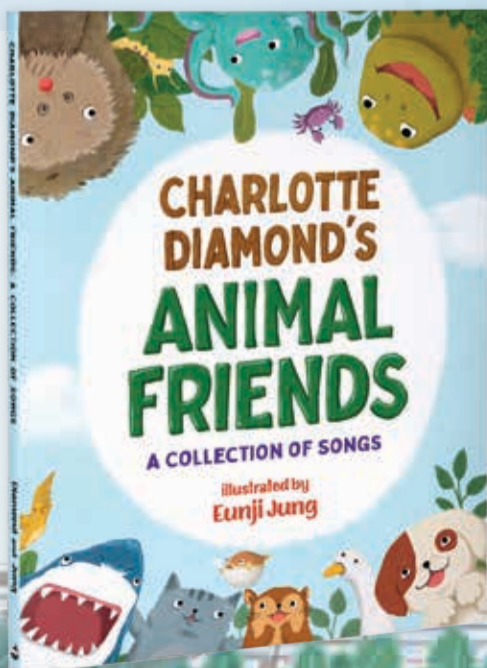
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Octopus, Octopus  
Squiggling in the water  
Octopus, Octopus  
Gulp, gulp, gulp  
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a...



Boy in the Blue Hammock  
by Darren Groth  
(Nightwood Editions \$22.95)

BY ERIN F. CHAN

Tao, a failed service dog, is now the loyal pet to “Family”—composed of “Woman,” “Man,” “Girl,” and “Boy.” Tao, though, has never understood Boy’s place in the pack. It seems straightforward to Tao: Boy is a “soft, vulnerable breed” and thus should be the lowest member in the hierarchy. Yet, Family always grants Boy special privileges—prioritizing him—and Boy shows “no deference, no apology, no fear” to Tao’s attempt at dominance. Tao’s dismissal of Boy, however, must come to an end when the other members of the pack are slain—leaving Tao as Boy’s only protector in their newly dystopian world.

This is the set-up for **Darren Groth’s** speculative fiction title, **Boy in the Blue Hammock**, and we learn that “Boy” is Kasper—an intellectually disabled fifteen-year-old boy with a limited ability to speak—now the last surviving (human) member of the family. Groth, an advocate for neurodiversity and intellectual disability representation in literature, based Kasper and Tao on his son and their own failed service dog. The novel follows the duo as they are forced to leave their devastated home—and for Kasper, forced to leave behind one of his greatest comforts, his blue hammock—in search of safety away from the “hounds,” the forces of the ruling regime.

Told partly from Tao’s limited point of view, *Boy in the Blue Hammock* reveals through the (curiously high) understanding of a dog the violence inflicted by the hounds on the family and their small Pacific Northwest town of Gilder. “The hounds pass by again, shadows darting like dragonflies,” writes Groth. “One slows, stops at the door. Tao can hear the breathing—deep, deliberate inhalations. Then the hoarse scrape of metal dragging across concrete. Tao smells body odour and tobacco. He senses joy borne by malevolence, a peach with maggots for a stone.”

Groth’s writing captures big themes, thoughts and emotions, and cruelties with a crisp and visceral quality. Many of the small, strung-together moments of Tao and Boy’s journey hold a poetic beauty: “Steps are the measure of time, each one bringing closer a midnight unknown. Walk awhile. Rest. Drift like lifeboats at sea. Duck beneath the

# TAO & BOY

A family dog and an intellectually disabled teen seek safety from a cruel, authoritarian world.

swaying feet of a man hanged from a makeshift gallows. Lap at the last dribbles of a broken fire hydrant run dry.”

Neither Tao nor Kasper are able to communicate with, or understand what remains of the crumbling, cruel world in a way that will ease their path to survival. Their perspectives challenge the reader to consider other ways of communication, even those involving silence. But this does not stop the people that Tao and Kasper encounter on their journey from

speaking to them. While Tao attempts to determine these strangers’ intentions because he cannot understand their words, their dialogue reveals their true character—and, importantly, how they view Kasper—to the reader.

Alongside the suspense of the duo’s arduous journey are interspersed flashbacks to the family’s past—all from the perspective of Kasper’s mother. Since the premise of the novel foretells the family’s impending end, these glimpses

of the past flesh out Tao and Kasper’s present. They also reveal more of Groth’s dystopian worldbuilding and how the ongoing crises affected each family member’s daily life—especially Kasper’s. From seemingly small things, such as Kasper’s favourite crackers being out of stock for weeks, to not having electricity or batteries to play the song that would calm him down, disruptions to the family’s routines present a terrifying problem. Kasper’s parents fear what the future holds for their son when he can neither conform nor advocate for himself. “Kasper’s refusal to go quietly into the night was a blow struck for resistance,” writes Groth. “Protestors witnessing his meltdown would’ve applauded. A pyrrhic victory, of course. There weren’t any exceptions with this regime. Disability wasn’t a licence to rage. An IQ below seventy-five didn’t give you a free pass for dissent. After curfew, a meltdown was just another prompt for an anonymous call to the authorities. The irony—Kasper treated the same as everyone else.”

Against a background of mass inhumanity, *Boy in the Blue Hammock* is timely in its attention to disability and ableism, speaking to present realities and the increasingly complex lives of disabled people in a world that continually devalues them.

Despite his failure as a service dog and initial reluctance in accepting Boy’s place in the pack, Tao steps up to protect the most vulnerable member of his family. Their story emphasizes loss and loyalty, capability and trust, and pointedly imparts the need for disabled lives to be respected as inherently valuable.

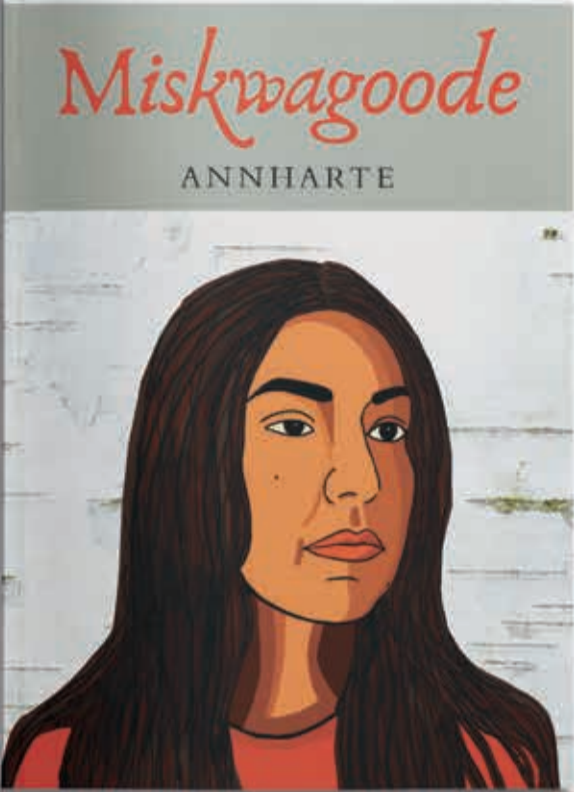
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Erin F. Chan (she/her) is a cyborg and graduate student in the Master of Publishing program at SFU and currently lives and works as a publishing assistant, copy editor, and designer on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Darren Groth

CHLOE GROTH PHOTO

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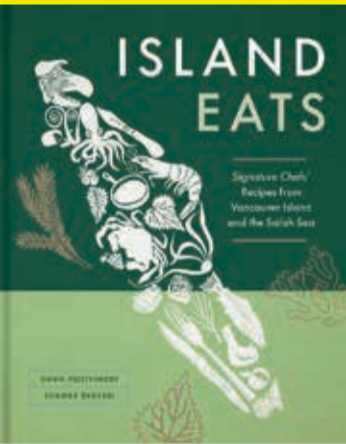
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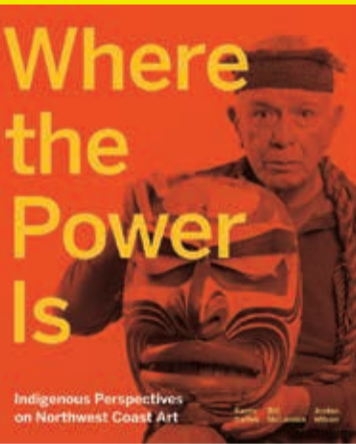
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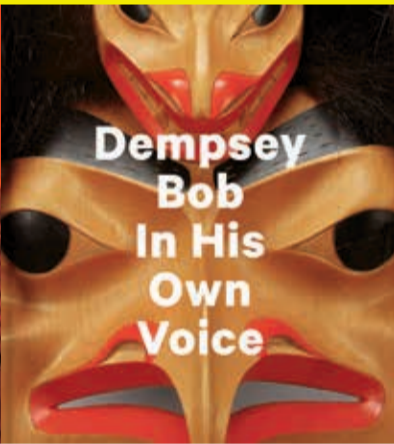
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# CONFRONTATION with Evil

**Out of Hiding:**  
**Holocaust Literature of British Columbia**  
by **Alan Twigg** (Ronsdale Press \$24.95)

BY GENE HOMEL

Since the late 1940s, Jewish Holocaust survivors from World War Two have come to BC and gradually felt inclined, or obliged, to write books about their experiences, creating a rich homegrown literature.

Now, **Alan Twigg** has compiled a valuable overview, **Out of Hiding: Holocaust Literature of British Columbia**, that comprehensively covers published work related to 86 BC authors and 163 books, including memoirs, scholarly non-fiction, novels, poetry and short stories.

The book's foreword quotes a Vancouver Holocaust survivor, **Tom Szekely** who said, "All we know and learn from the Holocaust strengthens us, as we may confront other genocides elsewhere or in the making." This observation seems powerful today, given events in Ukraine.



ALAN TWIGG—WHO HAS JUST RECEIVED AN honorary doctorate from Simon Fraser University—is not Jewish or German. He explains the urgency of getting *Out of Hiding* into schools and libraries across the province.

"I'm not interested in preaching to the choir, and I have no political or religious agenda. I believe strongly that it's everyone's responsibility to know more than just a little about the Holocaust, and our collective responsibility to teach our children.

"Confrontation with evil is a universal subject, and nowhere in living memory is this confrontation more undeniable than the Holocaust. With each new horror or genocide, we are pushing down the Holocaust in the midden of human history. Soon it will not be in living memory."

Easily the most significant BC-related book in the global context was **Rudolf Vrba's** *I Cannot Forgive*, later revised as *I Escaped from Auschwitz*. One of only five Jews who escaped the massive Auschwitz-Birkenau complex, Vrba and fellow escapee **Alfred Wetzler** arrived back in Slovakia, where they compiled a detailed report in 1944 on the Nazi atrocities they witnessed.

The pair's uniquely persuasive and non-emotional report was circulated to Allied governments, and ultimately helped to save the lives of at least 100,000 Jews in Hungary (according to the pre-eminent WW II historian Sir **Martin Gilbert**). Vrba became a UBC professor of pharmacology and Twigg met him in 2001.

Also hugely significant, Dutch-born Dr. **Robert Krell**, a UBC psychiatrist, has gathered the stories of countless traumatized survivors and co-founded the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. In 1942, at the age of two, his parents placed him in hiding under the care of a Christian neighbour. Unlike most Dutch Jews, his parents survived to reclaim the boy when the war was over—hence Krell always felt he had two mothers, which he describes in his memoir, *Sounds from Silence: Reflections of a Child Holocaust Survivor, Psychiatrist and Teacher*.

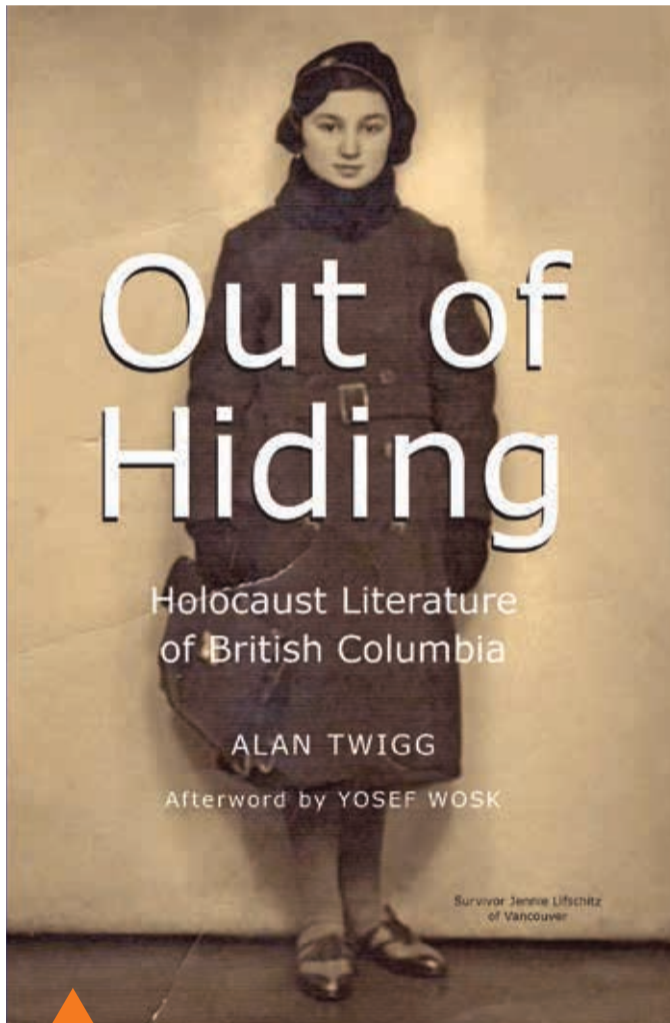
Perhaps most remarkable, the child survivor **Robbie Waisman** snuck his way into concentration camps—twice. In *Boy From Buchenwald* he



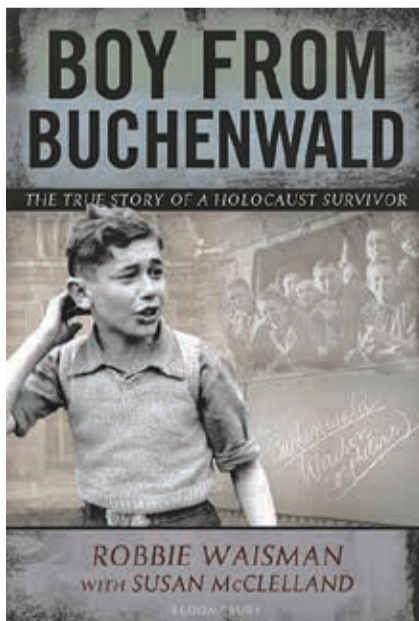
Rudi Vrba after World War II in Prague. Historian Sir Martin Gilbert has stated that Vrba's actions saved the lives of at least 100,000 Jews.



*Inside the Gestapo: A Jewish Woman's Secret War* (Macmillan, 1985) tells of the spy, Helene Moszkiewicz who infiltrated the German Gestapo.



On the cover of *Out of Hiding* (Ronsdale, 2022) is Jennie Lifschitz, who endured captivity in the Liepaja ghetto in Latvia and two concentration camps — at Kaiserwald (in Riga) and Stutthof (near Gdansk, Poland).



*Boy from Buchenwald* (Bloomsbury, 2021) is Robbie Waisman's story of why he broke into a concentration camp.

recalls being rehabilitated in France after the war alongside future Nobel Prize awardee **Elie Wiesel**.

Many Holocaust survivors got on with their lives and became successful in different endeavours, though Twigg is correct to warn about what he calls the "nice-ification" of the Holocaust. *Out of Hiding* takes pains not to sanitize history. For instance, **Leon Kahn's** *No Time to Mourn* is a harrowing account of an armed anti-Nazi partisan who witnessed a horrific mass slaughter of Jews as a boy.

Featured on the book's cover, Vancouverite **Jennie Lifschitz** is probably the only Canadian-born Jew who survived the concentration camps. Born in Montreal in 1924, Lifschitz's mother

moved her children to Latvia where Jennie later endured captivity in the Liepaja ghetto before being transported to the camps. As described by her daughter, the writer and translator **Rachel Mines**, Jennie came to Vancouver in the early Fifties after returning to her Montreal birthplace in 1946—before other Jews were allowed to emigrate.

Widowed in 1982, Jennie married **Jack Phillips**, a contributor to the Communist newspaper *Tribune*, and the couple visited the remains of the Nazi transit camp of Theresienstadt on Remembrance Day, November 11, 1983.

Scholarly accounts besides Mines' include **Adara Goldberg's** study of the 35,000 Jewish survivors who came to Canada in the decade after the war, *Holocaust Survivors in Canada*, and **Eva Hoffman's** *Shtetl and Lost in Translation*, the latter being an insightful account of the language transitions familiar to immigrants.

*Out of Hiding* is an encyclopedic reference work packed with information that also invites a browse of the different Holocaust authors and their perspectives. While some perspectives offer a vivid picture of what can happen when humans hit rock bottom, there are also stories of hope and redemption.

As a superb liar and an excellent tease, **Helene Moszkiewicz** infiltrated Brussels Gestapo headquarters and served the Resistance for six years. Her memoir *Inside the Gestapo* was the basis for two movies, **Paul Verhoeven's** *Zwartboek* [aka *Black Book*] and the TV movie *A Woman at War* starring **Martha Plimpton**.

Today, surveys show that accurate knowledge of the Holocaust is often spotty at best. It's safe to say that for most British Columbians, the Holocaust is now very distant, separated by time and geography. How many people know that the Canadian government admitted only about 5,000 desperate Jewish refugees between Hitler's takeover of Germany in 1933 and the end of the war and Holocaust in 1945?

All high-school students and their parents should be provided with access to this invaluable book.

978-1-55380-662-2

Gene Homel has been a faculty member at universities, colleges and institutes since 1974. He has also taught Holocaust studies at the post-secondary level in BC.

**Bob Williams,** the last living member of the inner circle of BC's first socialist government, tells of fights against corporate elites and working for the public good.

**Using Power Well: Bob Williams and the Making of British Columbia** by Bob Williams with Benjamin Isitt and Thomas Bevan (Nightwood Editions \$22.95)

BY ROD MICKLEBURGH

**I**t was a giddy group that gathered in the chambers of the BC legislature that early fall evening in 1972, unable to restrain their joy at being sworn in as the province's first socialist cabinet. They had been through the wars against the indomitable **W.A.C. Bennett** and his Social Credit Party. Now, against all expectations, here they were, inside the gates at last. After 20 years of unrestrained power, Bennett and the Socreds had been toppled. They called themselves "the Dirty Dozen." As the historic victory by **Dave Barrett** and the New Democratic Party approaches its 50th anniversary, only one remains.

At 89, **Bob Williams** is the great survivor. With family roots stretching back to the Winnipeg General Strike and a career extending into the 21st century, his long, event-filled life is full of signature achievements that have had a lasting impact on the province. Variousy feared, loathed, respected and admired, Williams is one of BC's most complex and controversial individuals. Yet today he is relatively little-known to many British Columbians. So his episodic memoir, **Using Power Well**, could not be more welcome.

It is not a definitive account. This is very much Bob Williams' own, sometimes immodest view of events. But that does not lessen its value as an insider's glimpse into much of the history he was part of for so many years, penned by a fierce adversary of the corporate elite and a passionate believer in augmenting the public good. Kudos to **Ben Isitt** and **Thomas Bevan** for fine-tuning remembrances that Williams wrote out during a month in Key West, Florida several years ago and adding to them from a series of interviews they did after his return. It is a fine, readable book.

What a life. Director of planning for Delta at the age of 26 (fired for preferring farmland over development); the first East Vancouverite elected to city council since the 1930s (**Harry Rankin** finished just behind him); 17 years as

an NDP MLA, including three years as the Barrett government's most powerful cabinet minister; deputy minister for Crown Corporations under NDP Premier **Mike Harcourt**; chair of ICBC; 21 years on the board, including time as chair, of Vancity, helping turn the institution into the largest, most innovative, progressive and asset-rich credit union in Canada; owner of Vancouver's beloved Railway Club for 29 years. And more.

But the heart of the book is that first NDP administration headed by Dave Barrett, arguably the most radical

government in the country's history. In just 39 months they did things—remarkable things—at a pace never seen before or since. A half century later, many are with us still.

While presiding over this unparalleled legacy of achievement, Barrett was the government's folksy, public face, operating more on gut instinct than anything else. Behind the scenes, it was Williams who pulled many of the levers of power. Both had grown up in East Vancouver, and they worked well together.

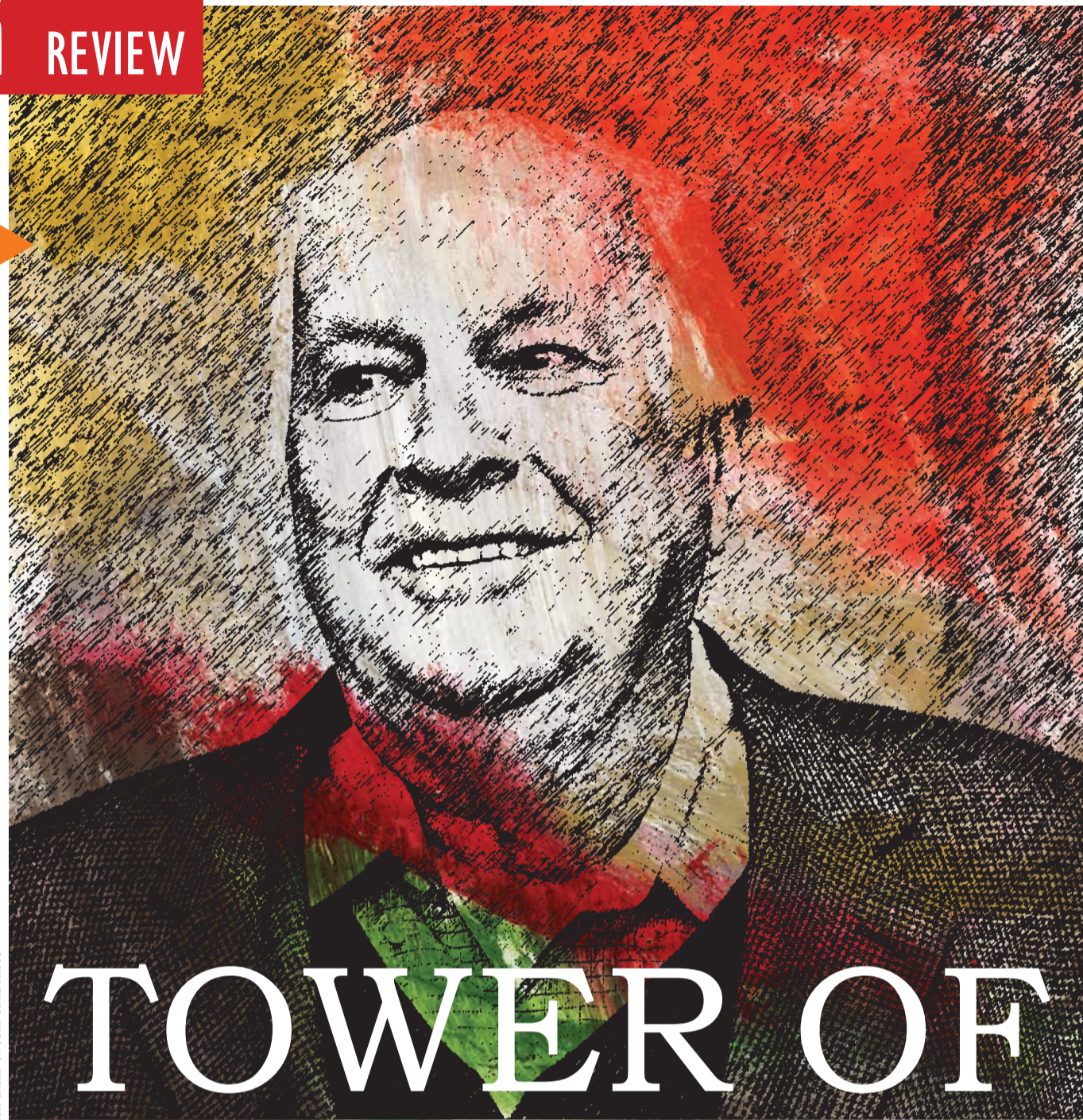
Charmingly, Williams recounts the

day after the election when the two met for lunch at the barebones Only Café in the midst of Vancouver's hard-scrabble Downtown Eastside to talk about transition to government. There was no team of bureaucrats and party advisers brimming with fact-filled binders. Instead, Williams had sketched out a likely cabinet and some ambitious goals on the back of a large manila envelope. Barrett agreed with most of it, and that was that.

Williams took to power like a duck to water. He operated as a "Super Minister": heading Lands, Forests and Water Resources, along with Parks and Recreation and his master creation, the Environmental Land Use Committee, which used a piece of left-over Socred legislation to enable many of the new government's major reforms, including its sacrosanct and most valuable legacy, the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

The ALR would almost certainly not be the ongoing success it is without Bob Williams taking over the file from ineffectual Agriculture Minister **Dave Stupich**. Such fix-it interventions were standard fare for Williams, who, by his own admission, was "basically running 5 or 6 ministries." He embraced the gospel of doing rather than dithering.

Williams also spearheaded government purchases of failing private enterprises to an extent unimaginable

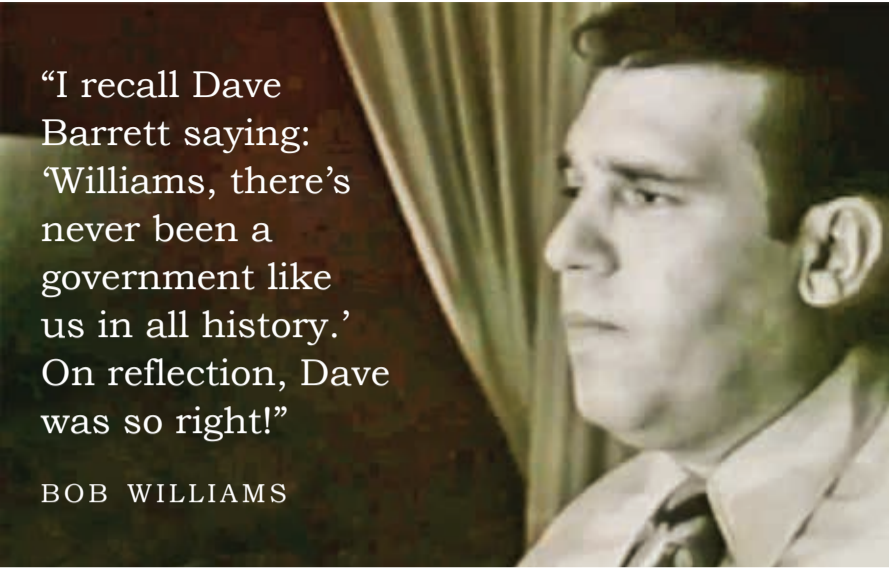


ART BASED ON JOHN SINAI PHOTO

# TOWER OF POWER



The Only Café in Vancouver, where Dave Barrett and Bob Williams met after the NDP's election win in 1972. Williams sketched out a cabinet on a manila envelope.



Dave Barrett (1930 – 2018): NDP leader and premier of BC from 1972 to 1975.

today. Pulp mills, sawmills, a land development company, a poultry plant and the *Princess Marguerite* steamship. In addition to preserving jobs, all began making money. “With my socialist roots, I didn’t realize I had entrepreneurial instincts until we were in government,” says Williams, fondly.

How was the rock ‘n’ rolling Barrett government able to do so much during its brief time in office? By bypassing the bureaucracy and bringing in their own people to effect change, Williams declares. “I was hiring and there was no one to stop me.”

“Don’t expect reform or excitement from bureaucracies these days,” he adds.

Among his many tangible footprints from the time are Robson Square (set in motion by a call from a phone booth to architect **Arthur Erickson**. “Process never even crossed my mind,” he writes), the resort municipality of Whistler, the Islands Trust and a doubling of public parkland.

“I recall Dave Barrett saying: ‘Williams, there’s never been a government like us in all history.’...On reflection, Dave was so right!” Those three years, he says, were “the most exhilarating, exhausting years of my life.”



WHEN THE NDP WAS DEFEATED IN 1975, Williams hardly disappeared. He created multiple projects over the next 40 years. Few were inconsequential.

Williams’s evocative descriptions of his early years are an added pleasure. He sketches a bygone era, frequenting the long-demolished squatter settlements of Crabtown and Dollarton Flats on the shores of Burrard Inlet, friendly newsstand vendors, measuring the rainfall gauge on the roof of Vancouver



Bill Pritchard (1888-1981), socialist, mayor of Burnaby

City Hall and a summer forestry job in the West Kootenays when the CPR paddlewheeler, the *S.S. Minto*, still plied the Arrow Lakes.

Only in his late teens did he discover that his mother’s partner was not his father. His real father turned out to be the son of **Bill Pritchard**, sentenced to a year in Stony Mountain Penitentiary for his short time in Winnipeg to support the city’s momentous General Strike in 1919.

Williams details little time of his private life, apart from mentions of his marriage to **Lea Forsyth**, to whom he dedicates the book, a steamy affair with an unnamed secretary and a disclosure later in the book that he is gay.

Williams acknowledges he could be tough to deal with. “It was said that I didn’t suffer fools gladly, and I didn’t.” Elsewhere, he describes himself as, at times, “an arrogant son of a bitch,” warning in the preface of “hard-hitting, cutting criticism of former colleagues living and dead.” He also, unfairly in my view, lashes out at “big labour.”

*Using Power Well* does not provide a grand, sweeping perspective of Bob Williams’ life and times. It is narrowly focused and not without fault. But there is much to savour and chew over from someone the likes of which we are unlikely to see again. Recommended.

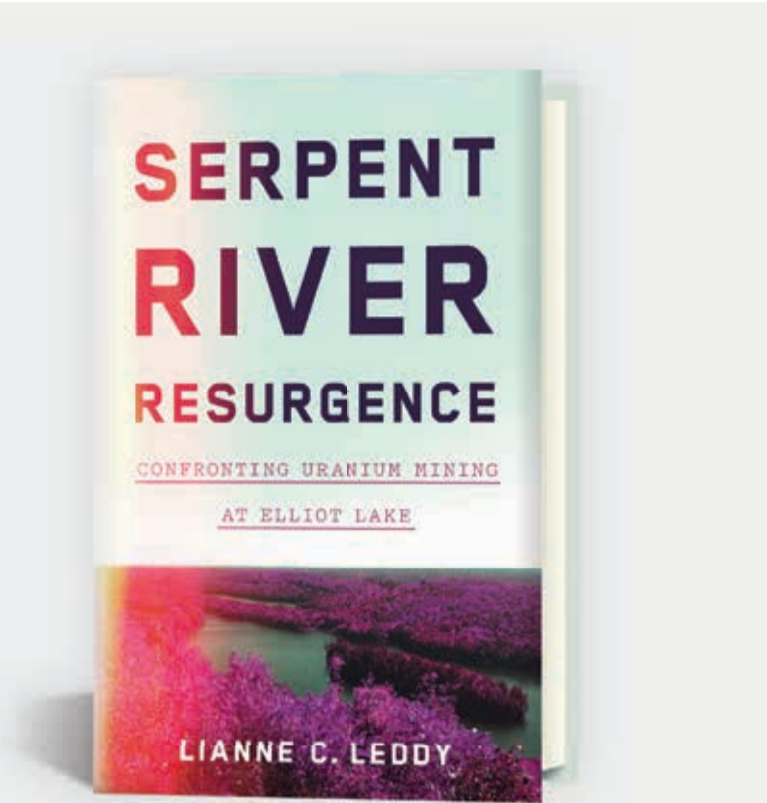
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Rod Mickleburgh co-authored with Geoff Meggs, *The Art of the Impossible: Dave Barrett and the NDP in Power, 1972-1975* (Harbour, 2012); and *On the Line: A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement* (Harbour, 2018) that won the George Ryga Award for social awareness in literature.



The Railway Club had a members-only entrance well into the 1950s, and was later a gambling saloon between 1971-1980. Bob Williams and his family took it over and ran it from 1980 - 2008 and it became a great spot for live music.

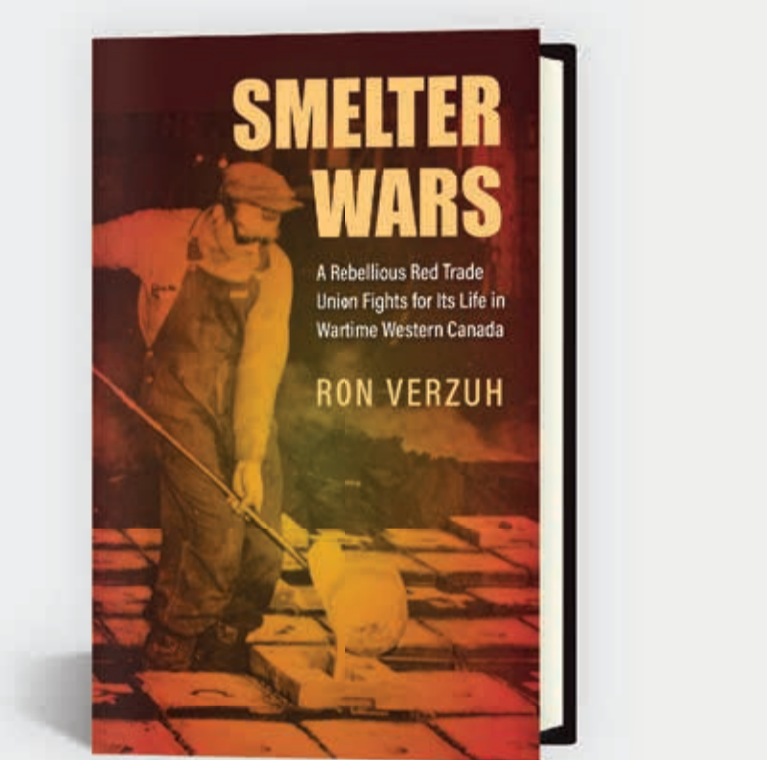
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TOM WAYMAN  
author

**The Zone:**  
**Rediscovering Our Natural Self**  
 by **Rob Wood**  
 (Rocky Mountain Books \$15)

BY GRAHAM CHANDLER

Anything is possible if we put our mind to it—or, more precisely, almost anything is possible if we put a universal mind to it.”

So writes author **Rob Wood** of Maurelle Island, BC in this short but brilliant and thought-filled book about finding “the Zone,”—a special happiness related to harmony and connection with the natural world.

Wood has lived life as he wanted—adventure, experience, challenge, creativity—while caring deeply for humanity, the environment, and the intimately connected, natural world. Then, a devastating diagnosis.

“I grew up in a picturesque English village nestled into the edge of the Yorkshire Moors,” he writes. “Roaming freely for days at a time in the nearby woods, fields and open moors gave me a deep and lasting sense of nature’s timeless flow, in which everything made sense and fit together. Ever since early childhood, I have been intuitively responsive to the ability of wild places to affect my state of mind and my emotions.”

Wood trained as an architect, in which field he despaired that humans have the “right to abuse the rest of the world without any risk to ourselves.” So he soon found himself heading for the hills every weekend with his climbing pals—ending up in a local pub singing their hearts out well past closing time. “I knew, then, that I had found something precious, though elusive, a feeling of happiness, freedom and harmony: the Zone,” he writes. “I would pursue and nurture it for the rest of my life.”

And indeed he did. From Baffin Island, Yosemite Valley, the Canadian Rockies—where he lost a close friend and climber to an avalanche—to arranging demonstrations in Strathcona Park and sailing adventures; all the while minding that power of the Zone.

Then one day on an unrelated health consultation came some shocking news from his neurologist.

“He asked a whole bunch of seemingly unrelated questions such as ‘How’s your handwriting?’

“It’s all squiggly.”

“How’s your sense of smell?”

“Non-existent. It’s completely gone!”

“I’ve got bad news and good news,” said the neurologist. “The bad news is you have Parkinson’s disease. The good news is I can give you medication that will somewhat hold off the progression for up to five years. After that, I can’t promise you anything.”



Rob Wood on Almscliff, North Yorkshire, England in the 1960s.

# JUST ANOTHER MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB

Renowned mountaineer, naturalist and architect **Rob Wood**’s third book takes the reader on his most challenging trip—and it’s nothing like any of his preceding adventures.

Upon getting the diagnosis, Wood dutifully took the prescribed medication—levodopa, “one of the so-called ‘wonder drugs’ of the twentieth century.” But not surprisingly for readers at this point in the book, who will have appreciated this man’s belief in the power of the Zone, he starts researching Parkinson’s.

Wood learns that the disease causes depletion of the dopamine supply to the area of the brain governing autonomous movement. It’s dopamine that transmits messages from the brain’s control centre. Less dopamine means less control of automatic, habitual, subconscious muscular activity. Dopamine is also a “feel-good” hormone that keeps us motivated and lets us enjoy what we really like, he learns. Activities that give us pleasure stimulate dopamine. On the other hand, procrastination, self-doubt and lack of enthusiasm are linked with low levels of dopamine, he writes. Because Parkinson’s depletes the supply of dopamine, it creates a vicious circle of decline in both physical and emotional function.

But Wood also learns that the placebo effect (when a person’s physical or mental health appears to improve after taking a ‘dummy’ treatment) with its associated psychological factor of feeling good about ourselves can help deliver an uninterrupted supply of dopamine. What’s more, Wood relates the placebo effect to the Zone.

“It seems to me that three components of the placebo effect—focus of conscious attention; patients’ participation in influencing their own recovery; the healing power of love—are also the main ingredients of the Zone,” he writes. “So, even as I take my medications and exercise, I am a strong advocate of the healing power of the Zone—if not for total recovery, at least for holding Parkinson’s advancement somewhat at bay.”

He admits however that the need for a consistent focus of attention is the most difficult to sustain: “Yesterday I fell down the stairs because I wasn’t paying attention.”

The power of the Zone isn’t restricted to the personal, Wood says. “If humanity, in any form resembling existing civilization, is to survive the imminent tumultuous changes to the earth’s climate that our own greed and exponential growth have created, the holistic, natural Zone state of mind will have to prevail, whether by choice or by having nature thrust it upon us.”

9781771605250

Freelance writer Graham Chandler has hiked the Rockies for decades. He was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease five years ago.

Rob Wood and friend Tom Morrell setting off to go climbing in the 1960s.



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**DEFY THE SMALLNESS OF THE STAGE  
 WITH THE GREATNESS OF YOUR DARING**

Wong's first book upended tragic literary theory by arguing that risk is the dramatic fulcrum of the action. It also launched an international playwriting competition (risktheatre.com). His second book expands on how chance directs the action, both on and off the stage.

Inside you will find three risk theatre tragedies by acclaimed playwrights: *In Bloom* (Gabriel Jason Dean), *The Value* (Nicholas Dunn), and *Children of Combs and Watch Chains* (Emily McClain). From the poppy fields of Afghanistan to the motel rooms and doctors' offices lining interstate expressways, these plays—by simulating risk—will show you how theatre is a dress rehearsal for life.

Six risk theatre essays round off this volume. In a dazzling display from Aeschylus to Shakespeare, Thomas Hardy, and Arthur Miller, Wong reinterprets theatre through chance and probability theory. After risk theatre, you will never look at literature in the same way.

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Edwin Wong (1974-) is a classicist and theatre researcher specializing in the impact of the highly improbable. He has been invited to talk at venues from the Kennedy Center and the University of Coimbra in Portugal to international conferences held by the National New Play Network, the Canadian Association of Theatre Research, the Society of Classical Studies, and the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. His first book, *The Risk Theatre Model of Tragedy*, is igniting an international arts movement. He was educated at Brown University and lives in Victoria, Canada. Follow him on melpomeneswork.com and Twitter @TheoryOfTragedy.

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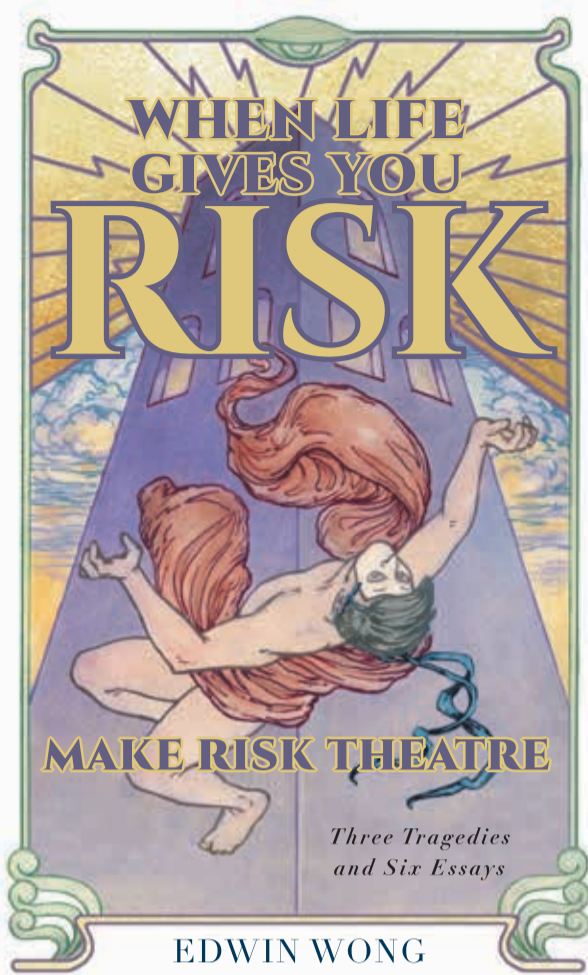


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# FRONTIER FOLKWAYS

A Sixties back-to-the-lander shares stories told to him by legendary people of the Chilcotin Plateau.

Talking to the Story Keepers:  
Tales from the Chilcotin Plateau  
by Sage Birchwater  
(Caitlin \$24.95)

BY ALEXANDER VARTY

It's a tribute to the immensity of the BC landscape that the Chilcotin Plateau, located in the geographical middle of our province, is largely unknown to most urban or island residents. Many even consider it northern rather than central—an allowable misunderstanding, given that it's separated from more populous regions by jagged mountain ranges and relatively free of touristic amenities, fine dining or opportunities to shop. It's a world of sweeping grasslands and majestic

(although shrinking) glaciers, grizzly bears and bighorn sheep, and hardy people of both Indigenous and settler heritage, or some mix thereof. Even in the urban south, some of those figures are nearly legendary. Think of **Tommy Walker**, the UK-born wilderness guide and pioneering environmentalist; Nuxalk knowledge keepers **Andy** and **Lillian Siwallace**; and **Chiwid**, who lived a largely traditional Tsilhqot'in lifestyle right up until her death in 1986. And a large part of the charm of **Talking to the Story Keepers: Tales from the Chilcotin Plateau** is that the Chilcotin frontier days are so close to the present time that these legends were still alive when author **Sage Birchwater**, a '60s back-to-the-lander and would-be trapper began to record their reminiscences. These are, admittedly, not entirely



Chiwid, also known as Lilly Skinner Jack, was a Tâilhqot'in recluse who lived outside in the Chilcotin for more than half a century.

untold stories. Walker, for instance, outlined his own life in the highly readable *Spatsizi* (Antonson, 1976); and Birchwater published Chiwid's story in *Chiwid* (Transmontanus 2, New Star Books, 1995), the imprint edited by journalist **Terry Glavin**. Birchwater's new addition to the "regional library" adds a couple of key elements, however—chief among them an arguably more nuanced understanding of the interactions between Indigenous

residents and settlers, coloured by an increasing awareness of the near-genocidal effects of the residential school system. Whether it's due to his own kind heart, his training as a social-services outreach worker, his time spent in journalism, or his own lonesome hours in the deep bush, Birchwater is a great listener, with an ability to reach across cultures to get at another person's truth. This is less common

This is the story of  
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RANDOM  
HOUSE  
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Lillian and Andy Siwallace in their traditional Nuxalk regalia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SIWALLACE FAMILY

than it might seem, but it's an essential component in creating oral history of the kind created by **Studs Terkel** and **Barry Broadfoot** and then—later and closer to home—expanded on by Harbour Publishing's exceptional *Raincoast Chronicles* series.

Some readers might take exception

with Birchwater's decision to open *Talking to the Story Keepers* with a chapter on "**Thunder Bert** and the Troopers of Williams Lake," which is set not on the shores of some trout-spangled lake or in the shadow of some majestic mountain but on the meaner streets of a hard-bitten mining-and-

Frontier days are so close to the present time that these legends were still alive when **Sage Birchwater** began to record their reminiscences.

logging town. The "troopers" are a loose band of dispossessed Indigenous people, many battling addiction and all suffering from the economic and social consequences of racism. There's nothing romantic here, but Birchwater quickly draws us in by allowing each Trooper their own measure of personal dignity. Many, in fact, free themselves of the street life by connecting with some aspect of the natural world, even if only temporarily.

And Birchwater imparts a gentle but necessary lesson: the Troopers aren't suffering from some supposedly genetic or cultural propensity for drink but from a clash of worldviews in which settler fences have shut them out of an earlier and highly functional social order.

Writing about the former boxer **Baptiste Meldrum**, Birchwater reports that the Tsilhqot'in elder "had an understanding of the country that preceded colonization, and he knew where the various Tsilhqot'in families had lived across the broad landscape before they were pushed out and displaced by settlers. This concept of living

in the whole territory was completely new to me and foreign to my way of perceiving the world.

"*Nen gagunlhchugh deni nidlin*," Meldrum said. "We live all over this land."

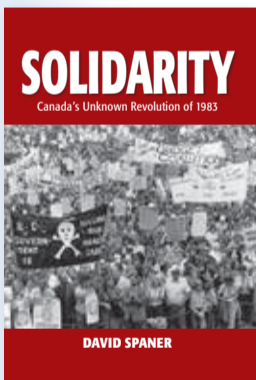
That's a great point to remember when considering First Nations land claims and the Indigenous concept of belonging to the land, not owning it.

Suitably schooled, but not lectured in the least, we can then move on to a selection of portraits of Chilcotin residents both Indigenous and non. In general, the settlers Birchwater depicts share their neighbours' concerns and show their country similar respect; if there are cowboys here, they're on horseback, not wearing camouflage and gunning ATVs. And while the author is unflinching in discussing the losses that Indigenous people have suffered, his informants include some of the Tsilhqot'in elders responsible for preserving traditional ways and traditional language through the darkest days of the potlatch ban and the Sixties Scoop.

Most inspirational are Nuxalk elders Andy and Lillian Siwallace, and it's fitting that Birchwater ends *Talking to the Story Keepers* with their observations. Under the tutelage of Andy's mother, **Margaret Siwallace**, the two worked tirelessly to revive the endangered Nuxalk language, maintain their artistic and ceremonial traditions, and live generous, happy lives despite their own brutal experiences of residential school. The Siwallaces are gone now, but their actions live in the ongoing revival of Indigenous culture, and their words shine brightly here. 9781773860800

*Alexander Varty is a musician, writer and forager living on unceded Snuney-muxw territory.*

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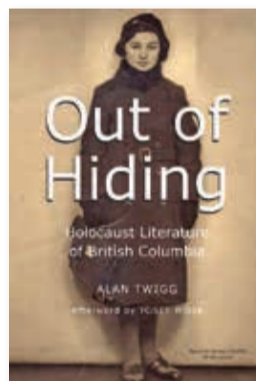
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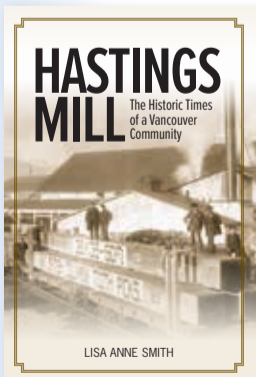
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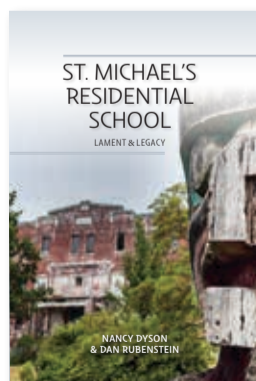
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# HEROIN HEROINES

## BAD DRUGS OR BAD LAWS?

Heroin, discovered in 1898, was heralded as a pain reliever and up to the early 1950s was prescribed for therapeutic use in Canada.

**BC BookWorld** interviews **Susan Boyd** about **HEROIN: An Illustrated History**.



A recent BC coroner’s report stated 2,224 people died of suspected overdoses in the province in 2021, more than in any previous year. Toxic drug deaths were declared an emergency in 2016 by the provincial health officer, Dr. **Perry Kendall**, yet more than 9,400 people in total have died from illicit drug overdoses between then and now.

Experts like activist and researcher **Susan Boyd** say our drug laws and social prejudices have much to do with these deaths.

Her eleventh book, **Heroin: An Illustrated History** examines the history of heroin and the harm done by criminalizing heroin users (and other drug users), leading to the overdose epidemic still underway.



**BC BookWorld:** How did you get involved in helping addicts?  
**Susan Boyd:** I don’t use the term “addict” because it’s meaning is not clear and it’s often linked to negative stereotypes and discrimination. I prefer to say: people who use heroin, or people who use criminalized drugs. Because not everyone who uses a criminalized drug has a “habit”; many are casual users.

I first started thinking about drug policy when I was a teenager in the 1960s and 70s. Like many youths in the counter culture, I experimented with criminalized drugs. I could not figure out why certain drugs and the people who used them were seen as criminals and deviants. Especially since drugs like tobacco and alcohol (legal drugs) were more harmful. I continue to be curious about the purpose of drug prohibition or the war on drugs. Who does it serve?

As an adult I helped to found and work in one of the first harm reduction services for mothers and their children in Vancouver in the early 1990s. I saw the impact of our drug laws played out in a devastating way in the lives of the women I knew.

Later, I chose to study the history of drug prohibition more deeply. Why did prohibition emerge? What are the consequences of drug prohibition?

**BCBW:** You argue that our drug laws do more harm than good. Please explain.

**SB:** Drug prohibitionist laws negatively contribute to the very factors that they claim they will reduce. For example, criminalizing heroin and not providing a safe supply for those most affected can lead to a poisoned, unregulated, illegal heroin market and fatal drug overdoses.

Many of the harms we attribute to heroin use since criminalization (such as a higher risk of overdose and disease infection) actually stem from prohibition [which means heroin has to be bought on the illegal market and people don’t know when they are getting toxic heroin that can lead to an overdose].

Drug prohibition as a whole is not driven by evidence of its efficacy in dealing with drug use nor “addiction” but rather by violence, a growing global illegal and sometimes violent market and a poisoned drug supply.

Since their inception, harsh drug laws have been touted as a way to stop drug trafficking and importation of illegal

**Heroin:  
An Illustrated History  
by Susan Boyd** (Fernwood \$30)



“I argue that ending drug prohibition, ending punitive policies and laws and providing a safe legal supply supports life rather than destroying lives.”

SUSAN BOYD



drugs; yet, the focus of law enforcement is on people who use drugs. And the majority of drug offences in Canada have been for personal possession, not drug trafficking or importing drugs.

**BCBW:** Give an example of how our past ideas about heroin and drug users led to “bad” laws?

**SB:** In *Heroin*, I challenge ideas about addiction and “addicts.” What do we associate with these labels? How do these labels create discrimination and stigma?

Not all people who use heroin or other criminalized drugs use regularly, nor are they habitual users. In fact, most people who use criminalized drugs are occasional users.

However, in Canada, following criminalization in 1908, abstinence from criminalized drugs was advocated as the solution to drug use, and if that failed, prison was seen as the solution. Canada did not set up narcotic clinics where doctors can prescribe legal drugs for people who use narcotics regularly—i.e., a legal safe supply. Nor were publicly funded drug treatment services set up.

Those people labelled criminal addicts were seen as criminals first and foremost, and their use of heroin (or other drugs) was considered secondary. Prison time, not drug treatment,

was considered the appropriate penalty for personal possession of an illegal drug such as heroin.

Since the 1960s, the majority of the drug services and treatments set up in Canada draw from the disease model of addiction (where addiction is seen as a biological, life-long condition)—sobriety is required or seen as the end goal of treatment.

I argue in *Heroin* that repeated and regular drug use does not need to be understood as criminal, or a fixed pathological identity or a “neurobiological condition.” Alternatively, addiction could be understood instead as a habit. Researchers **Suzanne Fraser**, **David Moore** and **Helen Keane** examine the concept of habit. They define it as: “a settled or regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up ... [such

as,] he has an annoying habit of interrupting me [and/or] good eating habits.” So, they say, “habit is neither good nor bad.” Yet, people who use illegal drugs such as heroin continue to be seen and treated as abnormal, disordered and criminal.

**BCBW:** Why do you find better solutions in harm reduction policies?

**SB:** Harm reduction is a response to punitive drug laws, to save lives. Harm reduction is not a rejection of abstinence, but it is not the sole objective of services or drug treatment. Harm reduction advocates assert that non-judgmental and practical services can reduce harms.

Harm reduction advocates also see drug use and services on a continuum: for some people, abstinence-based drug treatment or twelve-step programs work best; for others, alternative options provide essential support, such as education, drug substitution programs and overdose prevention sites. These services save lives.

I argue that ending drug prohibition, ending punitive policies and laws and providing a safe legal supply supports life rather than destroying lives.

978-1773635163



“No Compromise for Safe Supply” Var organized by Drug User Liberation Fro

Images from  
**HEROIN:  
An Illustrated His**  
by Susan Boyd



An old heroin bottle manufactured by Lilly Company, which could be purchased at and drug stores.



NATHANIEL CANUEL / CANADIAN DRUG POLICY COALITION PHOTO



and films warned Canadians of the degradation and menace of heroin use. Under the pen name William Burroughs wrote the autobiographical 1953 novel, *Junkie*, which popularized the myth: “once a junkie always a junkie.”



POSTER ART BY JF MARY

“Talk We Die!” A National Day of Action organized in 2018 by the Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs.



Photos by Lincoln Clarkes, from *Heroines Revisited*. At the insistence of the women he photographed, Clarkes did not disclose their names.

# HEROINES REDUX

Critical essays weigh in on **Lincoln Clarkes’s** new edition of his controversial “Heroines.”

**Heroines Revisited** by Lincoln Clarkes  
(Anvil \$48)

In the late 1990s, **Lincoln Clarkes**, who had made his name as a fashion and celebrity photographer, began taking photographs of drug-addicted women working in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES), which is where he resided as well. In 2002, he published some of the images in his book *Heroines: Photographs* (Anvil, 2002), exhibited the images at a DTES art gallery and was the subject of an award-winning documentary.

A furor of opinion erupted questioning Clarkes’ subject matter. It was also a time when the public and police departments began to take seriously the increasing reports of women on the DTES going missing. Clarkes’ photos were used in ‘missing posters.’ Later, a serial killer was convicted of some of the DTES murders.

**Heroines Revisited** is a follow-up volume featuring over 200 portraits, many not shown before. Accompanying the photographs is an interview with Clarkes and three essays that analyze the context of the controversial body of work.

According to journalist and scholar **Melora Koepke**, one of the essayists, objections to *Heroines* fall into two camps.

“First, there were commentators who disliked them on the grounds of civic pride or other kinds of calls to ‘decency,’ wherein they felt the photographs showed things and people that shouldn’t be seen,” she writes. “These subjects, it was implied and sometimes overtly stated, were not living their best lives and thus should not have their pictures taken ... The second set of objections centred on the artist

and his right to photograph these women. Clarkes—a white man, a professional artist—wasn’t ‘one of them,’ and should not be allowed to represent them.”

Koepke concludes that by its very existence, “*Heroines* asks whether those who are scandalized by what the photographs show should instead save their indignation for the conditions of life in the DTES.”



IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALIST **THERESA NORRIS**, CLARKES said each woman’s decision to model for him was a combination of her desires and her needs, and that was sufficient for his ethics. “What makes any woman, any person, want to be photographed?” Clarkes

continued. “Some of them think they’re beautiful, and they are. In many cases, they came to me and asked to be in the series ... If anything, it’s that they want to be recorded. Because they know they might not be here tomorrow.”

Of his technique, Clarkes said: “Eye contact was important to me. It was confrontational and almost like a dare, like a close-up they had been waiting for. I sometimes thought [they] stared into the camera so that all those people

who will never know them, who hit the gas and lock their doors when they drive around here could know [the DTES women] in a way ... they never would otherwise.”

When asked what he was most proud of as well as what had given him pain, Clarkes replied, “The pictured women’s involvement and collaboration were welcome and appreciated. They were into it all the way, helping me find and photograph other women on the street for the project ... I orchestrated a group effort with an idea. It snowballed into awareness that led to help and an investigation. That was rewarding ... The pain would be that there are hundreds of other women and girls that filled their shoes once my subjects went missing or died. Nowadays is worse than ever. It’s like a jetliner crashed on East Hastings.”

9781772140712



GRAHAM OSBORNE PHOTO

**Tales of B.C.:**  
**50 years of WACKY, WILD &**  
**THOUGHT-PROVOKING Adventures**  
 by Daniel Wood  
 (Op Media Group/Sandhill Marketing \$24.95)

BY MARK FORSYTHE

*"I was a City Slicker, a dude of the first magnitude. I didn't know which foot to put in which stirrup. I didn't know how to steer. Yet ahead of me on this September afternoon lies 100 kilometres of rugged bushwacking, thousands of potentially head-removing low branches, a dozen creek crossings, a dozen more horrifyingly steep ravines and talus slopes, and the abiding threat of grizzlies—all requisite encounters in B.C.'s last true frontier. I'm about to learn, I know, some scary lessons."*

—Daniel Wood, *A Greenhorn Rides the Wokkpush Canyon Trail*

**D**aniel Wood's storytelling can erupt like a volcano, spewing vivid details, cheeky humour, ideas and bolts of wisdom. His knack for inserting readers into a story is impressive; whether fording wilderness creeks on horseback, crash-landing in a hot air balloon or sharing tales of death-defying kayakers in the Stikine Canyon. He takes you there and dunks your head into icy waters.

Daniel died last September at the age of 78. During his 50-year freelance writing career he transported readers to more than 100 countries, often with skilled BC photographers like **Ron Watts**. He tasted deep fried guinea pig in the Andes, encountered nomadic herders in the Gobi Desert and learned how to use a blowpipe in the jungles of Malaysia. He told his social media followers, "My work has taken me to some of the least known and most remote places on Earth. Because it is there—at the frontiers—where great, untold stories exist."

Wood's heart was also fastened to BC like a barnacle on driftwood. In

# MOUNTING AN ENRAGED WILD ANIMAL

Describing what it's like being in the middle of an avalanche and other perils (both his own and those of other people) was a specialty of **Daniel Wood**.

the months prior to his death, he collaborated with **Dale Miller**, a trusted editor at *British Columbia Magazine*, to assemble an anthology of magazine pieces written for assorted publications. They selected 28 stories for **Tales of B.C.**, an entertaining and enlightening tribute to his adopted province. Wood had arrived in Vancouver as an American draft resister in 1969 with the FBI on his tail. "My get-away car was my grandmother's underpowered Ford Falcon," he recalls.

BC's extreme climbers, gold seekers, biologists, back-country skiers and various adventurers fired his imagination. He writes, "Stuck here on the ragged edge of North America, the dreamers, the idealists, the Marxists, the utopian hippie surfers (and all the others) have sought—in the province's myriad remote valleys and coastal islands—a place to encompass their hopes. People pursuing their hopes and dreams, I came to understand, have stories to tell." Wood conveyed those stories with skill and passion, propelled by an engaging narrative.

The stories in *Tales of B.C.* cut a wide swathe: adventure, issues, people, places, events and sciences. During a 1998 visit to Atlin, Wood noted: "This intimacy with the wilderness—this dependence on nature's resources and respect for its dangers—underscores virtually every conversation." He profiled BC's last one-room school at Gold Bridge, watched fans go bonkers over Elvis impersonators at a Penticton tribute festival and recounted an avalanche survivor's (named **Merton**) nightmarish plunge in the Monashees. "It feels," Merton thought at that instant, "as if I've suddenly mounted an enraged wild animal."

Wood also tackled contemporary issues—from legalization of marijuana to the politics of medically-assisted death. He interviewed people who were arranging their own assisted deaths—before the courts provided legal sanction. One man tells him, "If I were a horse, they'd shoot me." Considering the morality of euthanasia, Wood writes: "A large segment of society has come to believe (67 per cent in Canada)

Daniel Wood (1943-2021) put himself in the way of danger, including bushwacking through a canyon on horseback when he had never before ridden a horse because, he says, "that's where great, untold stories exist."

that having a choice about the circumstances of one's final hours is the same as having a choice about abortion, or the sex of one's marital partner, or whether having a martini or two marks the highway to Hell."

Fascinated by the sciences, Wood goes in search of cougars with biologists on Vancouver Island, examines theories about ancient Chinese explorers arriving on BC's coast and follows dinosaur tracks discovered by children near Tumbler Ridge. Among the memorable people profiled here are **Harold Steves**, the founding father of BC's game-changing Agricultural Land Reserve. We meet writer and guide **Chris Czajkowski** who lives alone in a home that she built in the Chilcotin wilderness. "I can just make out the glow of the lantern, framed by Czajkowski's window. The light illuminates the outpost of remarkable human endurance and courage—a singular retreat from a world that often seems close to closing in." *Tales of B.C.* reveals a deep curiosity and reverence for the province's people and places, infused with Wood's infectious sense of discovery.

Daniel Wood virtually owned the Western Magazine Awards—he was nominated 52 times. Maybe more. He penned 15 books, was an award-winning magazine editor and was nominated for international travel writing awards. He was also a gifted writing teacher at UBC and SFU, and after sharing news of his terminal illness he told a former student: "I never had kids. I see my successful students as my writer offspring. You, collectively, are my legacy."

9781777876401

*Mark Forsythe has also told many stories about BC both as an author/co-author of four books and as the 18-year host of the former CBC Radio weekday show, BC Almanac.*

# Reds & Wobblies

Examining BC’s early radical union years.

**Smelter Wars:  
A Rebellious Red Trade Union  
Fights for Its Life in Wartime Western  
Canada** by **Ron Verzuh**  
(UTP \$34.95)

**For Freedom We Will Fight:  
The B.C. IWW 1906-1990**  
by **Larry Gambone**  
(Black Cat Books \$15.95)



Historian and former union officer, **Ron Verzuh** shines a light on a tangled piece of BC’s labour history in **Smelter Wars: A Rebellious Red Trade Union Fights for Its Life in Wartime Western Canada**.

By 1944, the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) had earned the right to represent more than 5,000 workers at a Trail smelter owned by a big Canadian industrial company. But World War Two was ending and the Cold War about to begin. The union had to continue fighting in the face of an employer determined to oust it and install its own company union; governments negatively reacting to the so-called “Red Scare” or fear of Communist ideas that intersected with unionism; and local opposition from conservative citizens and religious groups leery of collective movements.

Having grown up in the Trail/Castlegar area and studied its labour history, Verzuh is close to the subject. “The more I study it the more I lament that we have lost that capacity to struggle and resist that seemed so alive and vital back then,” he said. “I figure we just have to keep trying our best to dig out the nuggets. That’s pretty much how I see my role as a writer and historian: dig right down into it, search out what others thought insignificant, and see what it looks like today.” 9781487541125

★  
IN BC’S EARLY COLONIAL HISTORY, “LABOUR radicalism did not fall from the sky,” writes labour activist **Larry Gambone** in **For Freedom We Will Fight: The B.C. IWW 1906-1990**. “Unlike other provinces with their large population of farmers and small business people, BC was largely working class.” Fur-



Ron Verzuh



Larry Gambone

thermore, workplaces were grueling and dangerous with low pay. Basically, says Gambone, labourers worked to put food on the table. “Such conditions could not help but give rise to a level of class consciousness among workers that made them look favourably toward militant unionism.”

One of the active radical organizations was the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), whose members are often referred to as “Wobblies.” Founded in the US in 1905 at a convention that BC radicals also attended, an IWW branch formed the following year in Vancouver. At least four other branches quickly set up in other parts of the province. Of note, “an important branch was the Lumber Handlers Union composed largely of Tsleil-Waututh First Nations longshoremen... it was the first union on the Burrard docks,” says Gambone.

Between then and the start of World War 1, the IWW experienced its ‘golden period’ in BC. Some strikes to increase pay and improve conditions were successful. Others were brutally repressed by police forces, Canada’s military and company thugs who beat and arrested Wobblies. At one point, the IWW was banned outright by the federal government for the duration of the war. Between 1941 and 1968, the Wobblies barely hung on. Radicals of the late Sixties revived BC’s IWW but its membership remained under 100. Gambone concludes with why he believes IWW ideas and practices will have a role in BC’s future.

ALSO OF NOTE: **Union Zindabad!: South Asian Canadian Labour History in B.C.** (South Asian Studies Institute/U. of the Fraser Valley) by **Donna Sacuta, Bailey Garden** and **Anushay Malik** explores the complex relationship between South Asian Canadian workers and the BC labour movement over the past 100 years. The book covers issues such as early exclusionary practices and a recognition that racism is a tool of the boss to divide workers. *Union Zindabad!* contains over 100 photos and can be downloaded for free as an e-book or a PDF from [www.labourheritagecentre.ca/south-asian](http://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/south-asian).

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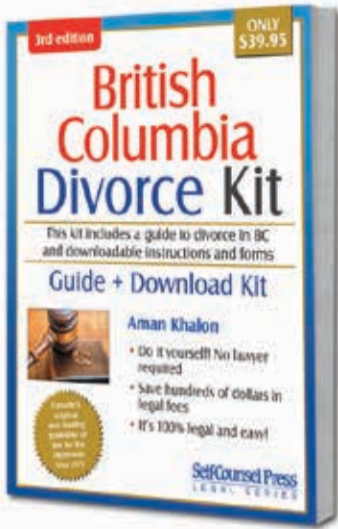
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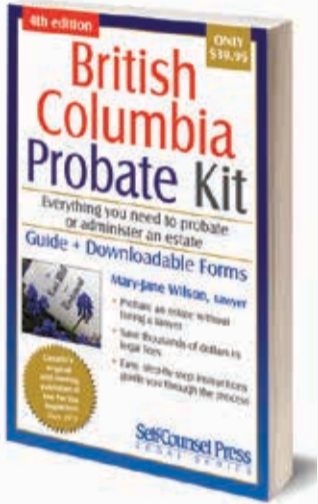


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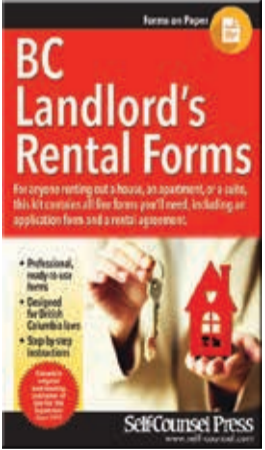
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Fresh Air, Clean Water:  
Our Right to a Healthy Environment  
by Megan Clendenan (Orca \$24.95)

AGES 9-12



n December of 1952, the smog in London, England was so thick and suffocating, it killed thousands of people in five days.

Nicknamed the Great Smog, it was caused by coal-burning factory emissions, which got trapped close to the ground by an unusual weather system. Twelve thousand more people died in the ensuing weeks from damaged lungs caused by the pollution.

In 1960, a black rain fell in Boston, Massachusetts, due to a noxious mix of rain, coal and oil from local industry.

In 1991, black snow fell in the mountains of India. No one knew what it was until scientists connected the phenomenon to the hundreds of oil wells set on fire in Kuwait by retreating Iraqi army forces in the Persian Gulf War. Although originating more than 3,300 km away, the pollution had made its way to India.

These are just three stories that **Megan Clendenan** highlights in **Fresh Air, Clean Water: Our Right to a Healthy Environment**, her book for middle grade readers that is also suitable for adults. Clendenan makes the case that humans depend on basic needs that should be enshrined as a human right, saying “Everyone, from me and you to people on the other side of the world, depends on clean air to breathe, safe water to drink and nutritious food—and so does every form of life on the planet, from oak trees to grizzly bears to ladybugs.

“In many communities around the world, people can’t rely on their drinking water because of the pollution caused by industrial waste. Each year more people die from unsafe water than from war.”

Virtually all of the damage comes from humans says Clendenan and started when we began to voraciously consume the earth’s resources and pollute rivers after the Industrial Revolution got under way in the 1700s. “Factories were built, and with them came new problems. Black coal fumes spewed from chimneys into the air. Many factories discharged toxic chemical waste directly into nearby rivers and canals, which then seeped into the soil. And for some people, nature became like a never-ending store filled with wood, water and gold.”

Only, Earth’s riches aren’t never-ending. “Today we still take more than we need to survive—and some people take much more than others. Right now, humans are using more resources each year than Earth can sustain over the long term. We do this in many ways, including cutting down too many trees and emitting more carbon dioxide than Earth can absorb. By some calculations, humans will need the resources from 1.7 Earths each year to continue to meet our current demands. But we don’t have 1.7 Earths.”

Having worked at one point for an environmental law group, Clendenan came to the conclusion that using

# SCIENCE NOT SILENCE

the court system and laws could be a pathway to help protect people from pollution and toxic chemicals. “Human rights are freedoms that each human, no matter

who they are or where they were born, is entitled to have. They include the right to be free and the right to be treated equally, as well as the right to life itself.

“When the elements of survival we all depend on are threatened, people’s health, well-being and even their lives are also threatened. Defending human rights and protecting the planet must go hand in hand.”

Clendenan profiles many people around the world who work to make positive changes, such as Canada’s **Autumn Peltier**, an Anishinaabe rights advocate from the Wiikwemkoong First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, who told the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, “No child should

**Megan Clendenan** argues that a healthy environment is a human right, one worth fighting for.

grow up not knowing what clean water is, or never knowing what running water is. We all have a right to this water as we need it—not just rich people, all people.”

Clendenan provides sidebars throughout the book titled “You be the Judge,” presenting difficult moral scenarios that all end with the question “If you were the judge, what would you do?” In one scenario, she notes that children who go to school near major roadways are more likely to have breathing difficulties and develop asthma. “How do you balance the right of children to breathe clean air with people’s desire to drive their cars?” she asks. “If you were the judge, what

would you do?”

Creating change through citizens’ actions is covered in the last chapter of the book. It includes the story of how teen activist **Greta**

**Thunberg** started the Fridays for Future movement for climate change. One of the offshoots of this was a climate strike the week of September 20 – 27, 2019 during which more than six million people around the globe took part, including Clendenan and her son, **Owen** in Vancouver.

And finally, Clendenan provides a toolkit of ways to create change—everything from learning about the planet; using the power of science such as observing, collecting and sharing data; to gathering friends to protest. Or even writing a protest song.

Megan Clendenan’s message is: “each of us has something to give!”

9781459826793



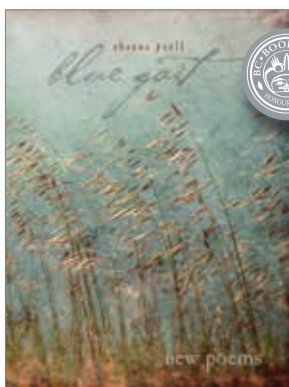
Megan Clendenan and her son Owen at the September 27, 2019 climate strike in Vancouver.



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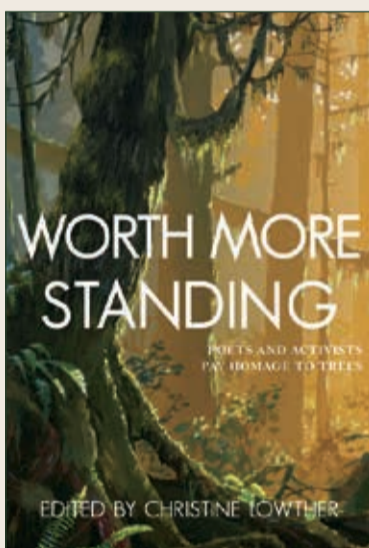
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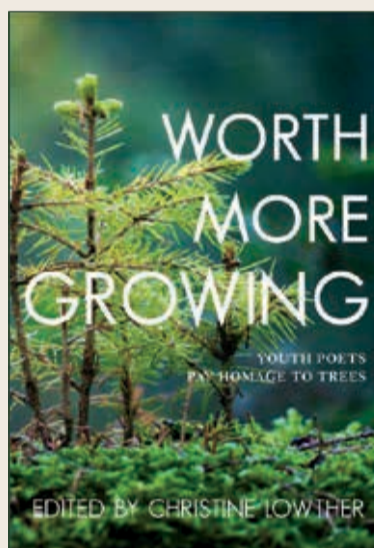
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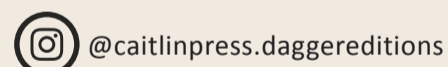
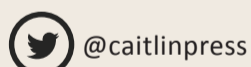
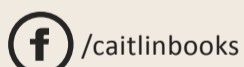


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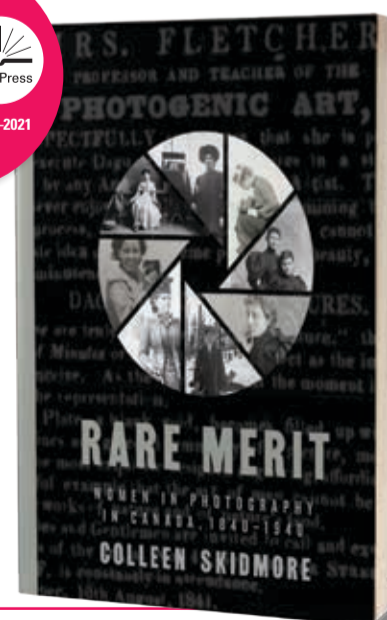


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Colleen MacDonald

There's something for everyone whether on foot, on a pedal bike or e-bike - from flat scenic rail trails, city greenways, quiet country roads, mountain trails and exciting new e-bike routes! With its mild climate and stunning scenery, there's no better way to see this amazing region. Here's the must-have guidebook for those looking to discover exciting BC island destinations.

Also available are bestsellers *Let's Go Biking Vancouver* and *Let's Go Biking Okanagan*.

9781775308164 \$22.95 pb *Let's Go Biking*

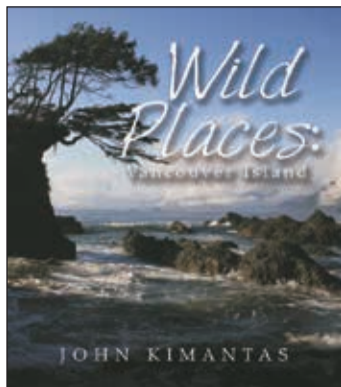


## **WILD PLACES** *Vancouver Island*

John Kimantas

Enrich your exploring experiences with this kayaking, hiking and recreational guide to an island of dense rainforests, rugged trails, breathtaking coastlines and mountain vistas. The author anticipates the needs of hikers, fishers, climbers, campers, kayakers and explorers of many backgrounds with detailed maps, access points and both practical and historic information. Here's a book that will lead you wherever you want to go, even if you don't know where that is yourself.

9781770503120 \$29.95 pb *Whitecap Books*



## **ANDRENA** **A Mining Bee**

Elaine Sedgman

Here, author/illustrator Elaine Sedgman uses the graphic novel format to mix fact and science and a bit of invention to present challenges that an *Andrena* bee must face in her life cycle. *Andrena* has only 2 weeks to dig a tunnel 25 times her length. In doing so, she must dodge human activity to find a suitable place to dig her home. She must also protect herself and her babies from the vagaries of weather and other insect marauders who want only to destroy her eggs. This is her adventure.

*Andrena* is Sedgman's second bee book: *A Bee Named Bob* 9781999522018 chronicles the life span of the Mason bee.

9781999522025 \$14.95 pb *Bee Stories Publ*



## **Common MAMMALS** **of the Northwest**

J. Duane Sept

**New** in the *Calypso Nature series*, this full colour guide is packed with information on over 80 species, including special tips to help identify them with interesting facts naturalists have gathered such as size and weight, habitat, diet, similar species and identification details. All of this is accompanied by fascinating notes on where certain ones originated and how they ended up here. More details tell about how these amazing creatures go about sharing the Northwest with us. Also available in this series are *Common Mushrooms*, *Medicinal Mushrooms*, *Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Northwest*, *Common Wildflowers*, *Animal Tracks & Signs* and more - see them all at your local bookstore!

9780995226647 \$14.95 pb *Calypso Publishing*



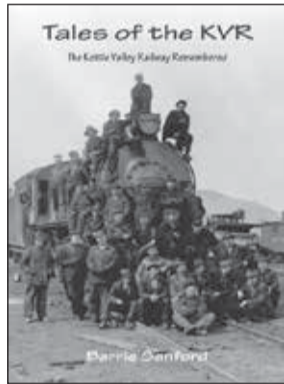
## **TALES OF B.C.**

*50 Years of Wacky, Wild & Thought-Provoking Adventures*

Daniel Wood

Written by one of B.C.'s most acclaimed writers and journalists, this anthology of award-winning articles features 28 true stories set in BC. From a dramatic and tragic adventure in the Bugaboo mountains to a near death hot air balloon ride to stories about BC's pot growing pioneers, Elvis impersonators in the Okanagan and our last free-range cowboys - this is a wonderful choice for those who might not have time to read a full length novel and a perfect gift for Father's Day or any occasion. A BC Bestseller, *Tales of BC* has been featured in the *Vancouver Sun*, *British Columbia* magazine and others.

9781777876401 \$24.95 OP *Media Group*



## **TALES OF THE KVR**

*The Kettle Valley Railway Remembered*

Barrie Sanford

Drawing largely from his interviews with railroaders over the past 50+ years and his own research, Sanford presents fresh stories and photographs to give the Kettle Valley Railway its due as a product of a generation of wild west BC adventurers. Here are the stories of Hurricane Hawkins, the engineer whose trains were always perfectly on time, of Minnie Engen who hailed from Minnesota, of Bunkhouse Bill who guarded sleeping engineers in the little town of Brookmere, BC - and stories of many others. Told as a series of long and short pieces, Sanford has assembled living social history carefully preserved by one of BC's foremost railway history experts.

9780973560237 \$21.95 pb *NRHS BC Div*

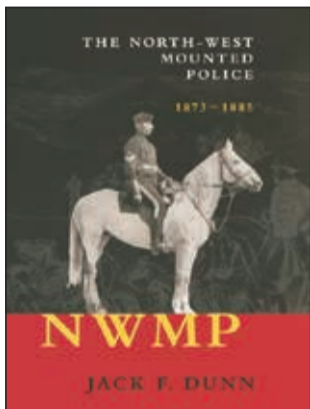


## **WHITEWATER COOKS** **TOGETHER AGAIN**

Shelley Adams

ISBN 9780981142449 \$36.95

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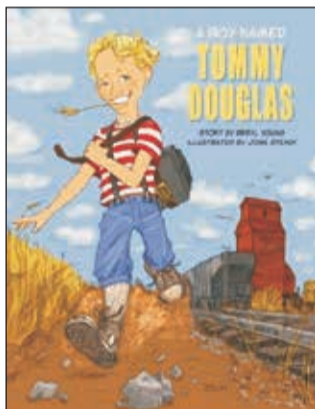


## **The NORTH-WEST** **MOUNTED POLICE** **1873 - 1885**

Jack F. Dunn

The arrival of a police force in 1874 was meant to bring law and order to the west and prepare the way for settlers. This account details the formative years of the Force that gave rise to the RCMP and of their early importance in the Canadian West over a 12 year period. First hand descriptions of the frontier experience, the relationships with the indigenous population, the challenges of weather, isolation and lack of amenities are brought to life through the depth of information here.

9780969859611 \$34.95 hc *Jack F. Dunn*



## **A BOY NAMED** **TOMMY DOUGLAS**

Beryl Young

*Illustrations by Joan Steacy*

Tommy Douglas is best known as the Father of Medicare. Douglas's passionate advocacy was inspired by his experience as a young boy when his injured leg was saved from amputation by a doctor who performed surgeries that saved it - all without charge to the Douglas family. From that time on, Tommy Douglas championed the idea of Medicare and has been acknowledged as our Greatest Canadian. Here is the little-known story of his dream which eventually made an important difference in the lives of all Canadians.

9781988242415 \$19.95 hc *Midtown Press*



## **The ROOMING HOUSE**

*The West Coast in the Seventies*

Michael Kluckner

In the 1960s and early '70s, thousands of youths were on the road, hitchhiking across Canada and the USA, living in rooming houses in cities like Vancouver. Their individual stories played out on a canvas stretched across the frame of world events including Vietnam, Woodstock, Watergate, and the emerging environmental movement, often in a climate of idealism, protest, and anger. *The Rooming House* follows several of these young men and women sharing an old home in Vancouver's Kitsilano district. It includes a playlist of 70s songs to enhance the reading experience.

9781988242460 \$19.95 pb *Midtown Press*

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Show Us Where You Live, Humpback  
by Beryl Young  
(Greystone \$22.95)

AGES 3 - 7

**H**umpback whales live much of their life in the cold waters near the south and north poles. To give birth to their calves, females migrate to warmer waters where it is safer to have their babies.

One of the chosen birthing areas is the Pacific Northwest where **Beryl Young** first saw humpbacks swimming off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Another good birthing place for Humpbacks is Hawaii, and while vacationing there, Young would hear their songs when she ducked her head underwater.

“Humpbacks are wonderful whales,” she writes in her seventh title **Show Us Where You Live, Humpback**, a picture book for 3- to 7-year-olds. “It’s an unforgettable experience to watch them leap powerfully into the air with their long flippers out like wings.”

The book introduces children to a mother humpback and her calf, and a human mother and child with a call-and-response format—the mother observes and the child responds—made especially to be read aloud.

Introducing a mother and her calf

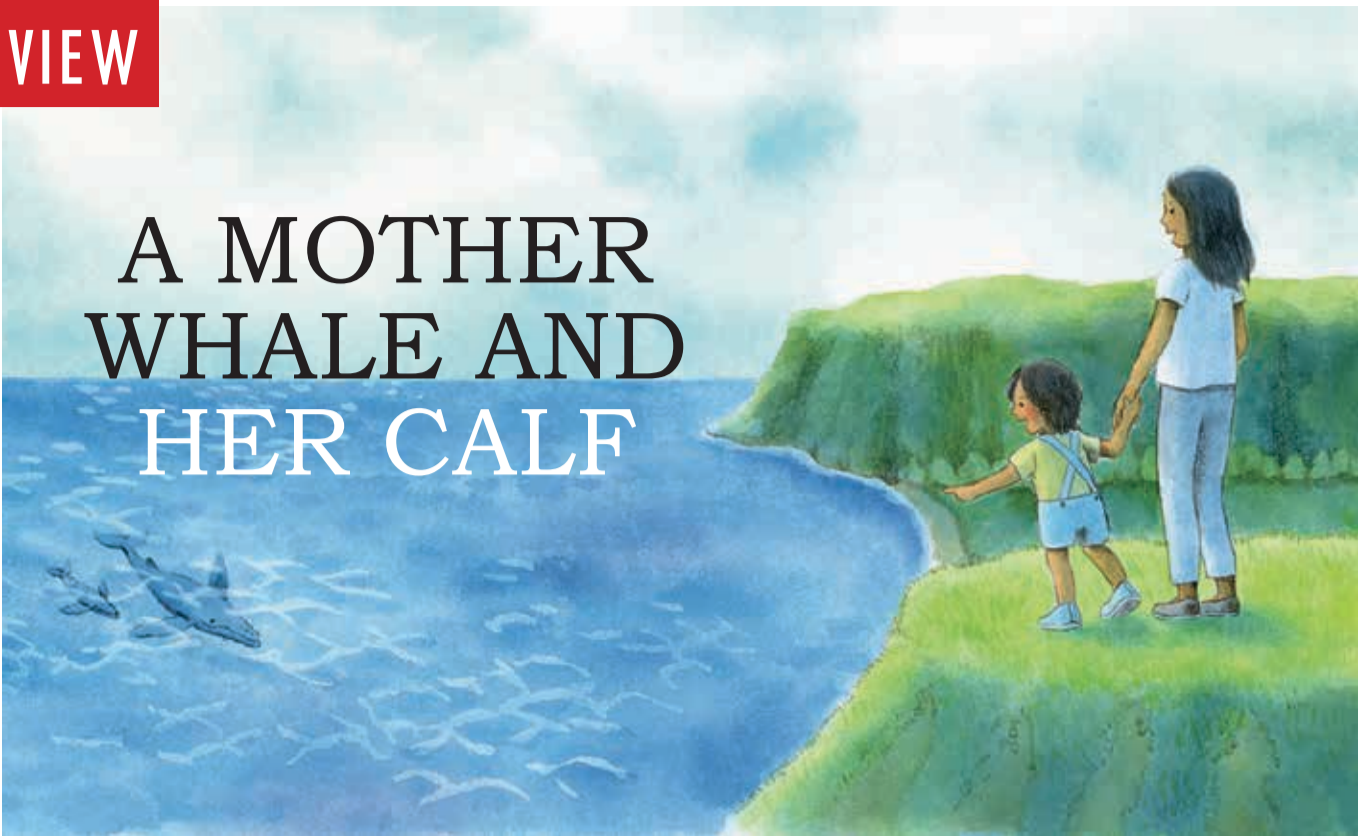


Illustration by Sakika Kikuchi from *Show Us Where You Live, Humpback*.

in the water, Young writes: “She floats close by you, a small shadow in this new world. You glide together through the sparkling sea. Your flippers sway like gentle curtains, keeping your young one safe.”

To which the human child, pictured walking with their mother on a grassy area surrounded by palm trees replies, “This is where I live, my home, where I learn and grow, where I am safe.”

At the end of the book, Young includes a section titled *About Humpback Whales* that contains facts, such as a newborn calf is about the size of a compact car and will double its weight

in two weeks. The mother humpback can be as big as five elephants and can live for fifty years.

When the calf is big and strong enough, it will journey with its mother back to colder waters.

“Female whales give birth every two or three years, and so the cycle of the wonderful humpback whales begins again,” writes Young.

Much of the book works to create a connection between children and whales. There are descriptions of the mother whale and calf blowing through their blowholes with attendant sound effects: “Surprise us when you blow,

Humpback. Look! A plume shoots up from your blowhole,” is sounded out as “WHOOSH!” And “a jet of sparkling bubbles,” is linked with “FWISSH.”

To this, the child says, “I can puff. I can blow. WHOOSH! I can make bubbles too.”

As if anticipating that this book will be read at bedtime, Young ends with, “Now we will drift and dream of the wide sea and the whales in this wondrous world we share.”

Young’s poetic whimsy is matched with illustrations in soft, watercolour hues by Japan-based **Sakika Kikuchi**, who holds an M.A. in illustration from the Cambridge School of Art (UK).

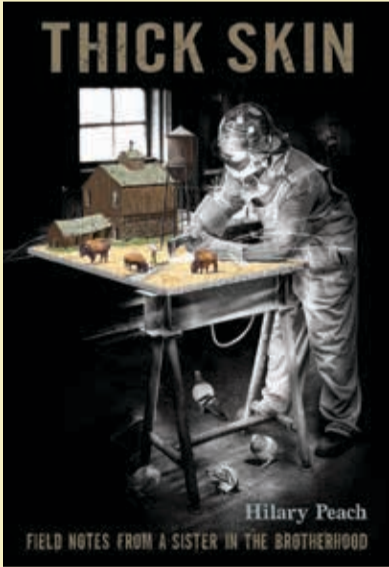
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from the

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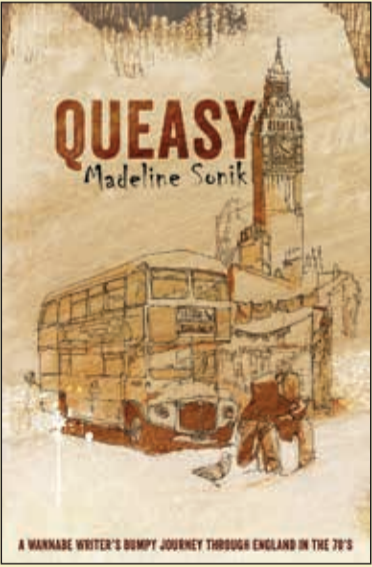


Thick Skin

HILARY PEACH

For more than two decades, Hilary Peach worked as a transient welder — and one of the only women — in the Boilermakers Union. This is her story.

MEMOIR | 384 PAGES | \$22 | AUGUST



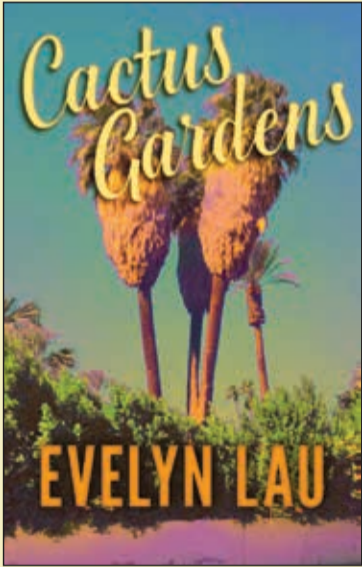
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MADELINE SONIK

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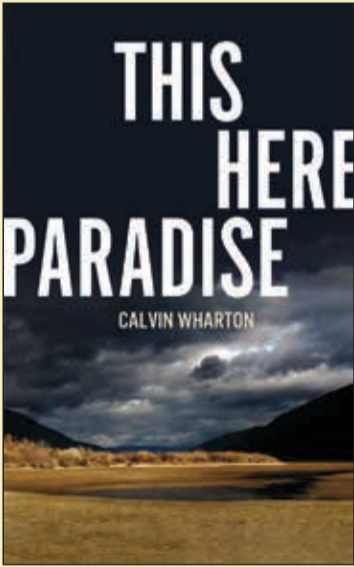


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## KIDLIT REVIEW



Illustration by Natassia Davies, from *White Raven* by Teoni Spathelfer

# GRANDMOTHER SHARES HER STORY

*White Raven*  
by Teoni Spathelfer  
(Heritage House \$19.95)

AGES 4 - 8

In her debut book, *Little Wolf* (Heritage, 2021) Heiltsuk hereditary member **Teoni Spathelfer** introduces a young girl who must leave her beloved Indigenous village surrounded by nature and move with her family to the big city. It's not easy adjusting to the concrete jungle, however *Little Wolf* learns to find connections to her culture and the land wherever she goes, despite encountering bullies and feelings of isolation along the way.

*White Raven* (Heritage \$19.95) is the follow-up and is named after *Little Wolf*'s mother who was one of the 150,000 Indigenous children from across Canada forced to go to residential school.

*Little Wolf* is now grown up, married and has three children. The family moves back to the island where *Little Wolf* was born and she delights in showing her daughters the wilderness and local Indigenous culture.

They particularly enjoy a white shell beach, called a midden. "This was an ancient place, where First Nations people had harvested food and gathered for meals for as long as anyone could remember," writes Spathelfer. "Along the seashore, they watched orca whales swimming and listening to sea lions barking on foggy days. In the forest, they laughed with pileated woodpeckers and smelled the wildflowers as eagles soared overhead."

*Little Wolf*'s mother, whose nickname is White Raven, also returns for visits to the island home and is glad her granddaughters are able to explore and learn about the area. But White Raven is also reminded of her unhappy times at the St. Michael's Indian Residential School in the far-away village of Alert Bay, which she knows must be shared with her granddaughters.

*White Raven* eventually begins to

tell her stories about having to leave her village and family at the age of six to stay at the residential school for ten months every year. "They lived in the school dormitories, where many beds were crammed into one big room," writes Spathelfer. "Most nights, White Raven couldn't sleep. Someone in the room was always crying because they missed their families."

Many bad things happened. White Raven and the other children had their heads shaved and a dangerous pesticide called DDT applied to their scalps. The school wrongly thought everyone had lice and the DDT was supposed to kill the bugs but it burned the children's skin "and made them feel like they weren't good enough."

The children weren't fed enough and the food was often rotten. White Raven "sometimes ate toilet paper to make the hunger go away." She had to work picking up garbage, washing dishes and milking cows. The children never got to drink the fresh milk, which was kept for the staff; instead, the children were given watered-down powdered milk.

White Raven had cousins and sisters nearby at the school and sometimes they were able to play together. There was also a teacher that was nicer than the other staff who took care of White Raven

when she was sick.

"Another thing that cheered her up during her time at the school was a rare white-coloured raven, which often landed close to her on the playground," writes Spathelfer. "It made her happy to see the beautiful bird, and reminded her that she was part of the Raven clan. This is how she got the name White Raven!"

Telling her stories helped White Raven heal and brought the whole family closer.

The third book in the series is *Abalone Woman* (Heritage \$19.95) and it will continue with Spathelfer's themes of racism, trauma and family unity through relatable, age-appropriate narratives. Illustrations in all three books are by Victoria-based artist **Natassia Davies** who is of Coast Salish ancestry.

WHITE RAVEN: 9781772033779  
ABALONE WOMAN: 9781772034110

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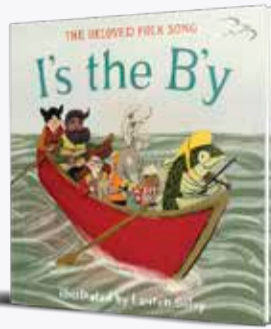
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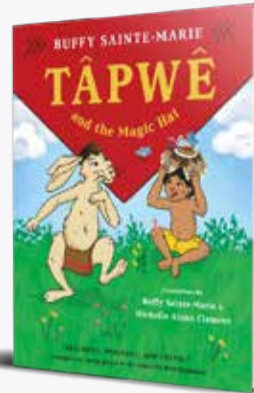
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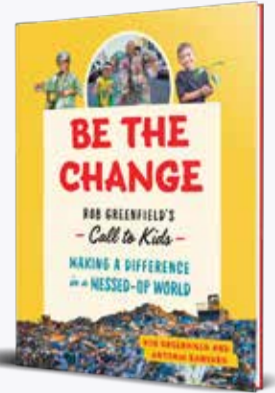
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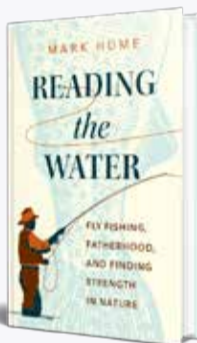
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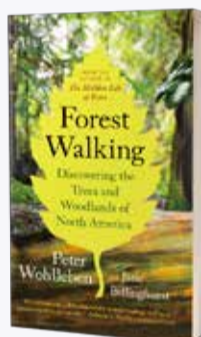
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#### ADULT NONFICTION



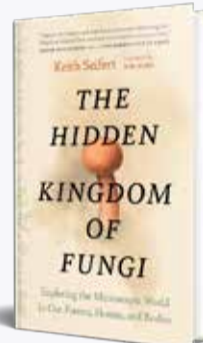
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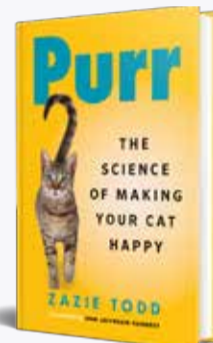
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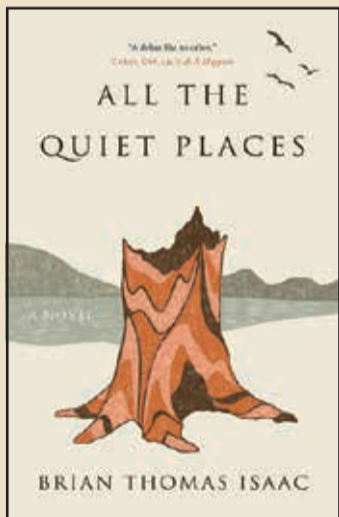
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# Coastal ☞ True Crime Fiction ☞ Kidlit



**Here on the Coast:**  
**Reflections from the Rainbelt**  
by Howard White  
(Harbour \$24.95)

The Sunshine Coast is actually more damp than sunny and it's full of characters that contribute to the unique qualities of its communities as related in this book of fifty funny sketches of life. Written by someone who has lived more than sixty years in the area and won awards including the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, the stories are hilarious and insightful.

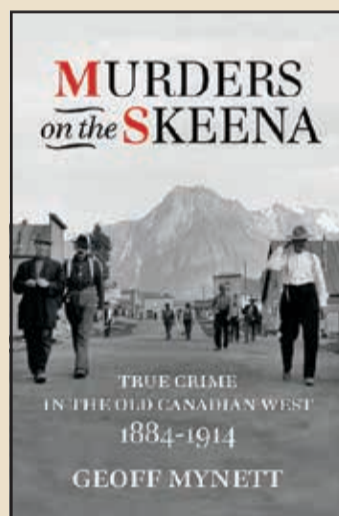


**All the Quiet Places: A Novel**  
by Brian Thomas Isaac  
(Touchwood \$22)

An Indigenous boy grows up in 1950s and 60s North Okanagan, telling a story of what it feels like when every adult around is impacted by colonialism and the poverty is suffocating. Seen through the eyes of a boy growing into his teens who finds a job and also love with a white neighbour, but is frequently subject to circumstances beyond his control that threaten calamity.

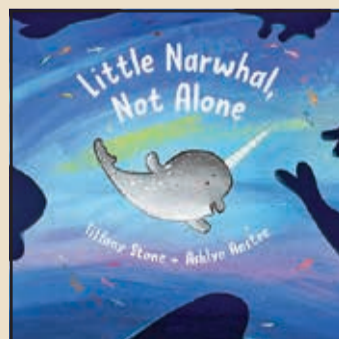
**Murders on the Skeena:**  
**True Crime in the Old**  
**Canadian West, 1884-1914**  
by Geoff Mynett  
(Caitlin \$24.95)

The small town of Hazelton became the site of increased tensions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people between 1870-1914 as colonizers arrived on steam boats bringing their new laws and new ways. Award-winning author Geoff Mynett writes of the times and true crimes. Includes a bank robbery shoot-out, and the murder of Amos "Charley" Youmans in 1884—the escalation of a clash between the laws and customs of the Gitksan and those of the encroaching traders and settlers.



**Little Narwhal, Not Alone**  
by Tiffany Stone  
(Greystone \$22.95)

A young narwhal is busy playing in Arctic waters when he suddenly realizes he is far from home and can't find his way back. Looking for other narwhals, he finds a pod of belugas instead. Soon they bond and the little narwhal finds a new home and family. Based on a real-life incident in the St. Lawrence River, this picture book introduces kids to the marine world.



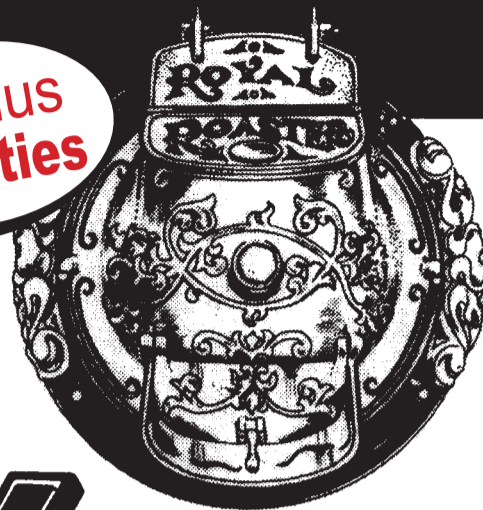
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# WHO'S WHO

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

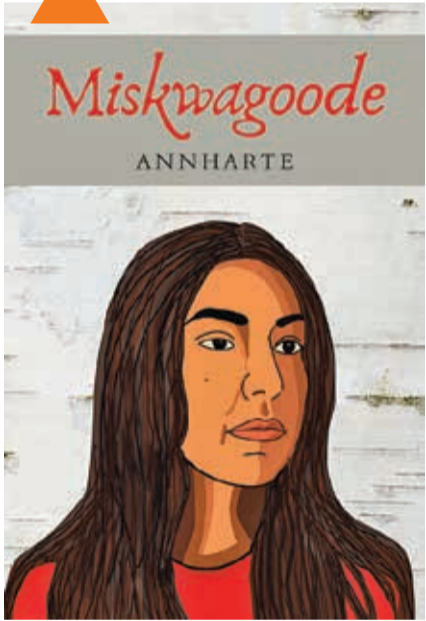


UBC's Ayesha Chaudhry is the Canada Research Chair in Religion, Law and Social Justice.

### A IS FOR ANNHARTE

**Annharte's** forthcoming **Miskwagoode** (New Star \$16) is about her mother loss, or her "mothermiss." This fifth poetry collection by Annharte (Marie Baker) is also about all the women "buried in common enough/cross-generational graves." The book title is a term taken from the Anishinaabe language for "woman wearing red." Described by her publisher as an unsettling portrayal of unreconciled Indigenous experience under colonialism, past and present, *Miskwagoode* has a cover illustration by Annharte's grandchild, **Madeline Terbasket**, and introductions by her son **Forrest** and her granddaughter **Soffia Funmaker**. Although Annharte lives as an elder in Gypsumville, Manitoba, six of her seven books have been published in B.C.

9781554201846



### B IS FOR BOCIURKIW



Michael Bociurkiw

Former staff reporter at Winnipeg Free Press, South China Morning Post and Asia Times, **Michael Bociurkiw** of Sidney has written **Digital Pandemic: How Technology Went From Bad to Good** (Self-published \$24.99) delving into how technology acted as an accelerant for many of the trends that existed prior to Covid-19: from working from home and food delivery to the mass adoption of wearable technology and online remote health consultations. Bociurkiw is a regular contributor to CNN, CBC, and CTV; and is also published in *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Globe and Mail*. He has twice been a TEDx speaker.

9798726069326



Nancy Vo illustration of the young Glenn Gould in *As Glenn as Can Be* by Sarah Ellis.

### C IS FOR CHAUDHRY

UBC professor of gender and Islamic studies, **Ayesha Chaudhry** wrote **The Colour of God** (Oneworld \$25) in response to the death of her nephew. His passing led Chaudhry to re-examine the beliefs and ideals with which she was raised. She mixes personal experiences and social commentary to find the meaning of faith and belonging, love and betrayal, family and womanhood. "The men whose ideas formed me to my very core, Muslim and Christian, brown and white, dead long ago — none of them came up with their ideas with me in mind," says Chaudhry.

9781786079251

### D IS FOR DICKINSON

**Zoe Dickinson** is a poet and book-seller. Her poetry is rooted in the Pacific coastline, with a focus on local ecology and human relationships with nature.

Dickinson's **intertidal: poems from the littoral zone** (zoedickinson.com 2022) won the Poetry Chapbook Contest run by Salt Spring Island's Raven Chapbooks. Dickinson uses humour in her verses, "no point in hanging on/ to someone else's shell." The book portrays neighbours, and evokes what's rarely said but readily recognized in poetry as the shadow of colonialism.



Zoe Dickinson

Dickinson writes, "if poetry is a way of learning to know the world then I want my poems to show this truth." Dickinson is also the co-artistic director of the Planet Earth Poetry Reading Series and her day job is manager of Victoria's Russell Books.

### E IS FOR ELLIS

Vancouver's **Sarah Ellis** has written **As Glenn as Can Be** (Groundwood \$19.99) about **Glenn Gould**, a child prodigy on the piano, for ages 3 to 6. As a youngster, Gould liked boats but not fishing; had a passion for learning but didn't like school. He gave classical piano concerts at age fifteen but grew to dislike performing live. Rather, he preferred playing and recording in an empty concert hall. Sarah Ellis has won the Governor-General's Award for *Pick Up Sticks* (Groundwood, 1991), the Egoff Children's Literature Prize for *Odd Man Out* (Groundwood, 2006) and the Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Literary Excellence in 2013. *As Glenn as Can Be* was illustrated by **Nancy Vo**, also of Vancouver.

9781773064680

### F IS FOR FISHER



Wilson Duff

Having worked for years on a biography of pioneering anthropologist **Wilson Duff** (1925–1976), **Robin Fisher** has now published **Wilson Duff: Coming Back, a Life** (Harbour \$39.95).

Born in Vancouver, Duff lived through the Great Depression and WW2. He worked as the BC Provincial Museum's anthropologist from 1950 to 1965 and then at UBC, where hundreds of students left his classes with a greater understanding of Indigenous cultures and the consequences of settler colonialism. In tracing the story of Duff, Fisher covers the evolution of anthropological studies as well as Vancouver during the Depression and war years.

9781550179750

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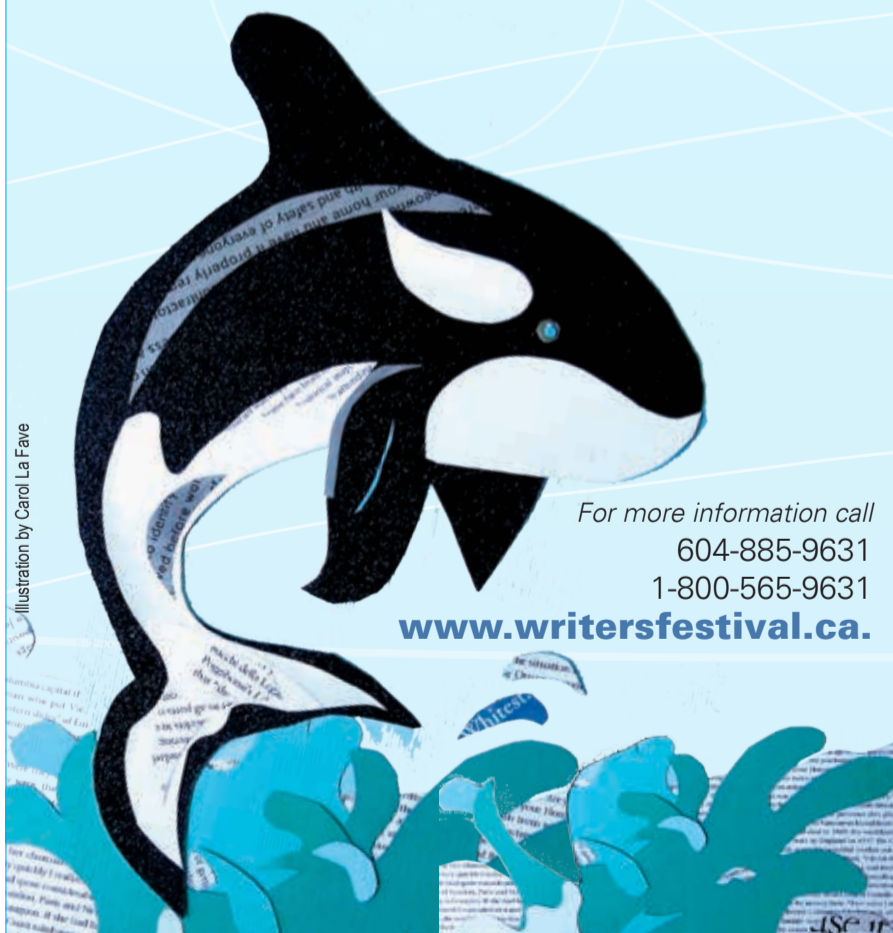
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# WHO'S WHO

BC

## G IS FOR GURPREET

Vancouver-based radio host and journalist, **Gurpreet Singh** has written the biography **From Nazneen to Naina: 20 years of Kareena Kapoor Khan in Bollywood and What That Means for India and the Rest of the World** (Chetna Parkashan, \$20) that simultaneously delves into dangerous social trends developing under the growing power of authoritarian governments such as that of India's Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. Born into a famous Bollywood Hindu family, the actress and activist **Kareena Kapoor Khan** later married a Muslim man, for which she was hounded by social media trolls. "There is a pattern behind the vilifying campaign against her, which has polarized the Indian entertainment industry," writes Singh. "The political environment of the country under a right-wing Hindu nationalist Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) regime has also contributed to this." 978939153043

## H IS FOR HOLMES

Pondering life and death issues such as a child attempting suicide and parts of North America burning in wildfires, **Nancy Holmes** questions whether spiritual solace is possible or even desirable in her sixth collection of poems, **Arborophobia** (U. of Alberta Press \$19.99). The book's title poem, coming from the word for hatred of trees, blurs the lines between humans and Ponderosa pines "reminding us how fragile our conceptual frameworks really are" according to publicity for the book. In another poem, Holmes references the medieval mystic known as **Julian of Norwich** with her call "to practice the art / of letting things happen." Yet Holmes also exhorts us to examine the harm people have done to the planet and those we love. 9781772126020



Nancy Holmes

## I IS FOR INNES

A road-trip-turned-nightmare is the basis of the novella **Elderville** (World Castle \$9.99), the fifth crime title from **Roy Innes** of Gabriola Island.



Roy Innes

## J IS FOR JENSEN

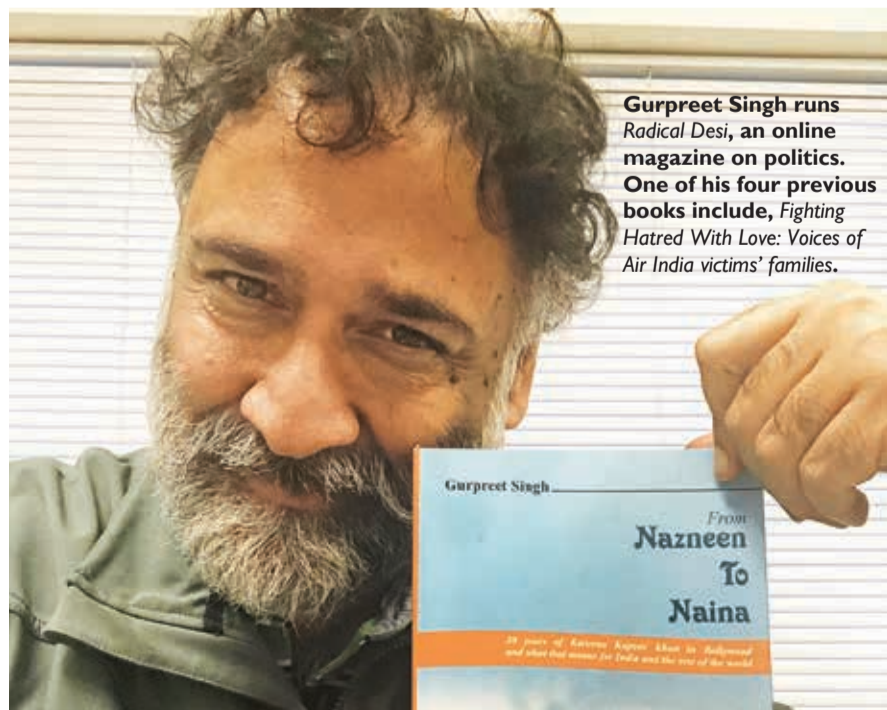
Having spent her childhood in the cornfields of the American Midwest, **Vickie Jensen** moved to BC, edited *Westcoast Mariner* magazine and wrote about working boats. Jensen came to appreciate BC's little-known underwater pioneers and their international reputation for innovation, which she writes about in **Deep, Dark and Dangerous: The Story of British Columbia's World-Class Undersea Tech Industry** (Harbour \$36.95). She says that BC's undersea story presents a "vital chapter of largely unrecognized Canadian history" although its legacy continues to be acknowledged globally. 9781550179200

## K IS FOR KISHKAN



Theresa Kishkan

In her 17th book, **Blue Portugal and other Essays** (U. of Alberta Press \$24.99) **Theresa Kishkan** writes about her preoccupations with the natural world, art, visual phenomena, and history as well as celebrating the aging body and delighting in travel, food, wine and dogs. Her publisher says that Kishkan is offering up "a sense of wonder at the interconnectedness of all things." Kishkan makes her home on the Sechelt Peninsula where she recently co-founded, with **Anik See** the independent publishing company, Fish Gotta Swim Editions. 9781772125993



**Gurpreet Singh** runs *Radical Desi*, an online magazine on politics. One of his four previous books include, *Fighting Hatred With Love: Voices of Air India victims' families*.

L IS FOR LEAVITT

By the time she reached the age of 12, **Hannalora Leavitt** had lost most of her vision due to cancer and she became one of the 3.8 million Canadians living with a disability. “The language associated with disability is primarily negative,” she writes in **The Disability Experience: Working Toward Belonging** (Orca \$24.95), her debut book for teens that seeks to demystify the world of disability and “otherness.” She provides a history of disability, the different kinds of disability and challenges faced by people living with disabilities (PWD). With illustrations by Vancouver-based **Belle Wuthrich** as well as photos, Leavitt introduces many PWDs who have fought to realize their life goals and lead fulfilling lives.



Hannalora Leavitt

9781459819283

M IS FOR McCASLIN

**Susan McCaslin**’s latest collection of poems, **Heart Work** (Ekstasis \$24.95) continues her decades-long focus on contemplative poetry and social justice. This new work assumes a place in the human heart where “heart and mind, feeling and thinking conjoin” according to her publisher’s blurb. McCaslin also makes reference to historical figures such as the multi-talented German abbess of the Middle Ages, **Hildegard von Bingen** (1098–1179) and the English Romantic poet, **John Keats** (1795–1821). McCaslin is faculty emeritus of Douglas College in New Westminster where she taught English and creative writing for twenty-three years.



Susan McCaslin

9781771714020

N IS FOR NAANII NORA

Haida elder, **Naanii Nora** (1902–1997), also known as **Gaadgas Nora Bellis**, was a venerated storyteller born in Old Massett at the north end of Graham Island. She was one of the first Haida to live in New Masset (spelled with one ‘t’), the new white settler’s town farther up the shore. She left behind a wealth of oral stories captured in **So You Girls Remember That** (Harbour \$22.95) a collaborative book project years in the making that was initiated by **Charlie Bellis** and **Maureen McNamara** and compiled by **Jenny Nelson**. In addition to stages in Naanii Nora’s life—from a young girl singing in the canoe, bossing her brothers or crossing the Hecate Strait in her dad’s schooner to making a home in the white settlers’ town as a young woman—the book also describes the history and changing relationships between Canada and the Haida people.



Naanii Nora

9781550179774



Leanne Prain is co-artistic director of The Imprint, a literary collective founded with poet Laura Farina to explore participatory acts of writing in public spaces.

O IS FOR OMULO

Businesses are increasingly confronted by Canada’s complicated relationship with Indigenous peoples. Where some see challenges, others see opportunity and **Priscilla Omulo** of Tsartlip First Nation shows how to take positive action in her guide **Amplifying Indigenous Voices in Business: Indigenization, Reconciliation, And Entrepreneurship** (Self-Counsel Press \$26.95). Omulo explains how organizations can make plans to improve the way they do business by creating a more sustainable and inclusive place for all. Her steps include doing the right research, consulting the right people, and formulating a productive Indigenization strategy. Omulo has amassed more than a decade of experience advocating for, and working with Indigenous youth and families. She sits on a variety of anti-racism boards and task forces.

9781770403406

P IS FOR PRAIN

Early in 2011, sales of *Yarn Bombing: The Art of Crochet and Knit Graffiti* (Arsenal Pulp, 2009), co-authored by **Mandy Moore** and **Leanne Prain** were boosted by an article on the front page of the *New York Times*’ style section, fol-



Priscilla Omulo was awarded the Indigenous Leadership Award in 2019, by the Women’s Collaborative Hub.

lowed by stories in the *Today Show*’s blog, and *Forbes* and *Time* magazines. A third printing was necessary by the summer of 2011 as ‘yarn bombing’ found its way into popular forms of public art and protest in countries around the world, taking its cue from graffiti artists. Now Prain, a writer, speaker and designer has followed up with **The Creative Instigator’s Handbook: A DIY Guide to Making Social Change Through Art** (Arsenal Pulp \$27.95). Whether an artist or crafter paints, sews, sings, builds, welds or rhymes, Prain’s new book shows how to make that ‘big project’ actually happen. Combines the stories of 23 creative instigators with colourful photographs and artwork.

9781551528755

Q IS FOR QUESTIONS

When **Robert Krell**’s wife, **Marilyn** found out he was writing a memoir, **Sounds from Silence: Reflections of a Child Holocaust Survivor, Psychiatrist and Teacher** (Amsterdam Publishers \$24.95) she asked him whether talking about his earlier life would make him unhappy. He replied that it was important as “within that period are the fragments of memory that sustain me.” He also said that

the bigger problem was “the absence of certain memories” such as whether or not his paternal grandfather (killed in a concentration camp) ever had a chance to see him. “Little in life matches the beauty and thoughtfulness encompassed by questions,” notes Krell. “Perhaps that is because questions may reveal more questions.” Robert Krell survived the Holocaust as a child in hiding in Holland. In 1951, his family moved to Vancouver and Krell later became a professor of psychiatry, treating Holocaust survivor families and Dutch survivors of Japanese concentration camps. Krell is also the founding president of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, has authored and co-edited ten books and is the recipient of the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Medal and the Order of Canada.

9789493231467



Robert Krell

R IS FOR RANSON

Baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1965) transformed life for teenagers in the 1960s. Now they are entering their seventh decade and have a chance to create a better way to grow old. **Gillian Ranson**, a former journalist and professor of sociology has written **Front-Wave Boomers: Growing (Very) Old, Staying Connected, and Reimagining Aging** (UBC Press \$22.95) to tell their



Gillian Ranson

stories of what it’s like preparing for this new phase in their lives. It’s not all straight forward as one of Ranson’s front-wave boomer friends tells her: “I know that I’m going somewhere else. But I don’t know where exactly that is.” Some have no family to assist them, others are busy or overwhelmed as they are pressed into helping their younger family members, and still more are dealing with health issues. What they all need, though is intimate, caring connections to other people. Ranson is a front-wave boomer, has written three books on family life and is herself exploring aging.

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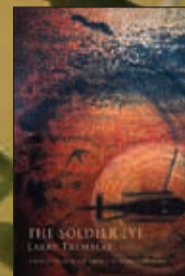
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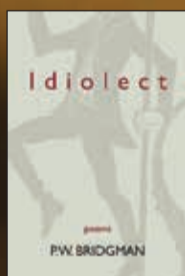
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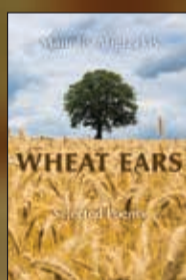
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# WHO'S WHO BC

## S IS FOR SEO

Shy science-whiz teenager, Emma Sakomoto is the protagonist in **Emily Seo's** debut novel for young people, **The Science of Boys** (Tradewind \$12.95). One of the school's popular girls asks Emma to help her win over a boy. Emma decides to use science theories to "pull the boy into her new friend's orbit." But can scientific principles be applied to emotional humans? In 236 pages, with 36 chapters all titled after scientific phenomena such as cell differentiation, nuclear chain reaction and boiling point, Seo builds a story around teen themes of fitting in and friendship. Seo earned her PhD in Chemistry from UBC and later a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Edinburgh. She lives in Richmond.

9781926890371



Emily Seo

## T IS FOR THORNTON



Russell Thornton

**D.H. Lawrence** posed the question "Oh what in you can answer to this blueness?" and North Vancouver poet **Russell Thornton** replies with his recent collection of poems, **Answer to Blue** (Harbour \$18.95). Thornton meanders through the past with family histories, lost lovers, mythologies and biblical references, even questioning perception itself: "You, me, you, me, you, me, you me. / Whatever either of us sees is a lie." His elegies to past family members are poignant, like those to a "welfare witch mom" who let her children buy cheap junk food dinners while their friends had roast beef meals, yet they still "dined together like princes on Smitty's burgers."

9781550179675

## U IS FOR UN

In his debut poetry collection, **Un** (Talonbooks \$16.95) **Ivan Drury** draws on the US War on Terror and the disappearances of people extrajudicially to grapple with the decline of the Left. The poems hint at new revolutionary possibilities in the unknown days ahead. Drury is editor of *The Volcano* newspaper in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and is a professor in the Labor Studies department at SFU.

978-1-77201-376-4



Ivan Drury

## V IS FOR VANNINI

After five years, 400 interviews and 250 ferry rides **Phillip Vannini** released his 2012 book *Ferry Tales: Mobility, Place, and Time on Canada's West Coast* (Routledge) about ferry-dependence on island and coastal communities of the West Coast. His upcoming release is co-authored with **April** and **Autumn Vannini**, **In the Name of Wild: One Family, Five Years, Ten Countries, and a New Vision of Wildness** (On Point Press \$24.95). The Vanninis set out to find what the terms 'wildness' and 'wilderness' mean to people around the world. Hint: it's not pristine, untouched nature. Together, the family visited twenty Natural World Heritage sites including the Galápagos Islands.

9780774890403

## W IS FOR WATER

Avid fly-fisher, **Mark Hume** has logged thousands of hours over the last five decades standing in BC's rivers, casting his line, reeling in fish (often releasing them) and soaking up the majesty of nature. He's penned several books about rivers and fly fishing including a tribute to his mentor and co-author **Mo Bradley**, *Trout School: Lessons from a Fly-Fishing Master* (Greystone, 2019). As his daughters grew up, Hume introduced them to the meditative sport, how to read the water and the deep allure of the natural world. He shares this endearing father-daughter story in **Reading the Water: Fly Fishing, Fatherhood, and Finding Strength in Nature** (Greystone \$34.95).

9781771645690



## X IS FOR X.ALASTEPE

Two young Indigenous sisters are sent to fish for a sturgeon thousands of years old with which to feed their village during the winter in **Joseph Dandurand's** picture book, **A Magical Sturgeon** (Nightwood \$15.95). But they neglect to follow their mother's instructions to leave something for the river in this follow-up to Dandurand's bestselling, traditional kidlit title *The Sasquatch, the Fire and the Cedar Baskets* (NightWood, 2020). By learning the importance of sharing and respecting all other living things, the sisters are saved. Dandurand, whose traditional name is X.alastep, meaning "written down," has also previously published poetry collections and plays. Illustrations are by **Elinor Atkins**, an Indigenous artist from the Kwantlen First Nation.

9780889713901

## Y IS FOR YOUSSEF



Marcus Youssef

**The In-Between** (Talonbooks \$16.95) by playwright **Marcus Youssef** tells the tale of Lily. Adopted as a baby in Vietnam by white parents, Lily always considered herself Canadian. But a budding romance with Karim leads to fellow students exposing their racist, anti-immigrant side. Lily is thrust into the middle of the conflict and faces the challenges of immigration, income inequality, and fears of violence at the school. *The In-Between* uses humour, sensitivity, and an authentic ear to create a realistic, relatable drama. Youssef is a recipient of Canada's largest cultural award, the Siminovitch Prize for Theatre. He also teaches regularly at the National Theatre School of Canada.

978-1-77201-240-8

## Z IS FOR ZELENSKY

When he's not busy working on his forthcoming book, **River of Mists** (Caitlin \$26), about twenty fascinating characters who lived in the Skeena area in the 1800s and early 1900s, Ryga-award winning **Geoff Mynett** continues his prolific work as a visual artist. He was recently inspired to produce a portrait of Ukrainian actor-turned-heroic-president **Volodymyr Zelensky**.

978-1-77386-093-0

Portrait of Ukraine president, Volodymyr Zelensky by Geoff Mynett

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## Truman Green (1945–2021)

*“His was the first black novel to come out of Western Canada and it got passed over.”*

WAYDE COMPTON

One of the earliest Black novelists in BC, **Truman Charles Green** was born in Vancouver on February 2, 1945 and became a long-time Surrey resident.

Green wrote and published a semi-autobiographical novel, **A Credit to Your Race** (1973), in which a 15-year-old Black porter’s son falls in love with, and impregnates, a white girl next door. Set in Surrey, circa 1960, Green’s novel is a disturbing and convincing portrayal of how the full weight of Canadian racism could come to bear on a youthful interracial couple.

“If isolation is a key theme of black BC writing,” says social historian and author **Wayde Compton**, “[Green’s protagonist] Billy Robinson is the most fully-drawn expression.” Compton says Green was diplomatic in the way he described racism, but his novel was passed over nonetheless.

After rejection of the manuscript by one trendy literary press in Eastern Canada, the first edition of 300 copies was published by a fledgling imprint called Simple Thoughts Press (and not ‘self-published’ as many have described it). Green recalled, “The drawing of Billy on the cover of the original edition was done by **Phyllis Greenwood**, a Vancouver artist who, at the time, was my very close friend.” Phyllis brought the story to the attention of her friend **Reg Rygus**, who had obtained a federal grant under a program called Opportunities for Youth to begin a small publishing venture. All of the physical work of typing, printing, binding and collating was done by Phyllis, Reg and his brother **Ron Rygus**, as well as Phyllis’s twin girls, **Alexis** and **Aleteia**, who were eight years old at the time.

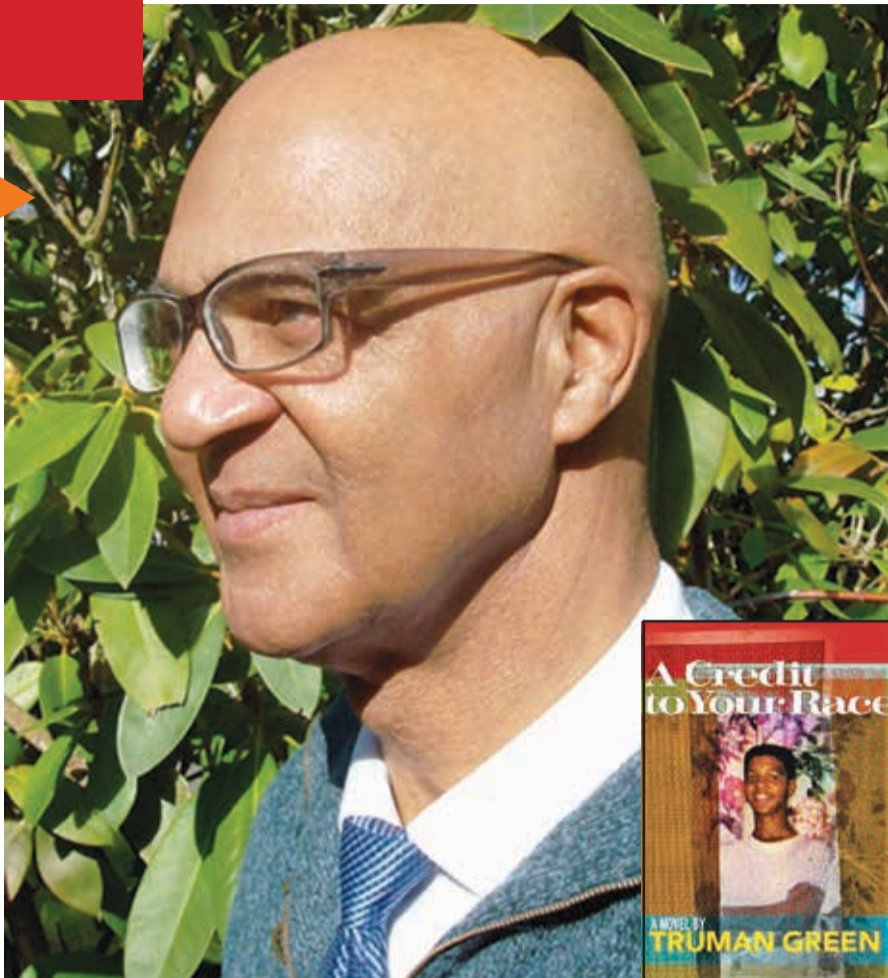
“It’s not really true that the book was ‘self-published,’ which implies that the author took on and completed the many tasks of publishing, as I really had very little to do with the publishing effort, besides helping to collate the pages.”



TRUMAN GREEN LIVED HIS EARLY YEARS IN Haney. When he reached school-age, he attended elementary school in Surrey’s Newton area and later attended North Surrey Secondary School and was elected president of the student council.

While attending UBC, Green joined several rhythm and blues bands as a lead singer. He graduated from UBC in 1968 with a BA in English literature and American history.

After publishing his debut novel, Green’s other publication credits included a creative non-fiction story, “Jason Loves Glory,” published in *Kiss Machine*, and science-related articles in Australia’s *New Dawn Magazine*.



Truman Green and *A Credit to Your Race* (Anvil, 2011).

Green went on to earn a living as a carpenter and renovator and started his own home construction company.

In 2011, Anvil Press re-published *A Credit to Your Race* as part of the celebration of Vancouver’s 125th anniversary. “We are pleased to be making this “lost” B.C. novel available to a new audience of readers as part of the City of Vancouver’s Legacy Book Project,” wrote the publisher.

Truman Green passed away on July 8, 2021 in McBride. He was cremated at Grace Memorial Funeral Home and Crematorium in Vanderhoof and his remains were scattered at English Bay in Vancouver. — *Alan Twigg with notes by BC BookWorld staff.*

## Brian Fawcett (1944–2022)

**Brian Fawcett** was born in Prince George on May 13, 1944, and the small northern city became central to his writing even after he left in 1965 to attend SFU in Vancouver and later relocated to Toronto.

The poet **Barry McKinnon**, who moved to Prince George in 1969, didn’t initially see Prince George as “poetic subject matter,” but he could see Fawcett did and that “Prince George *would* be the central metaphor and subject for his writing life. *His place*.”

In Vancouver, Fawcett operated a small SFU-based publication called *NMFG*, meaning No Money From Government. McKinnon says Fawcett described *NMFG* as being “playful and disrespectful” and a “recalcitrant counter attack to much bad writing of the day.” McKinnon also described the young Fawcett and his gang as “Prince George toughs in the big city out to cause a literary stir, which they did with great intelligence, seriousness and humour.”

After graduating with a BA in 1969, Fawcett taught in prisons and worked as

a planner in the Vancouver area for many years while he kept writing. He published *The Secret Journal of Alexander Mackenzie and Other Stories* (Talon, 1985) that examined in fiction the exploitation of BC’s hinterlands and identified the ‘global village’ invasion in psychological and economic terms.

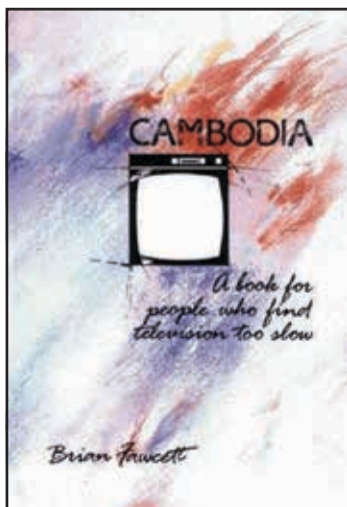
“I want to tell people this corporate remoteness isn’t new,” Fawcett said in an interview. “It’s been with us since Mackenzie’s time. He was a partner in the North West Company, so he was a corporate explorer; a shareholder interested in profits rather than places. His curiosity was shaped by his commercial ambition, despite the force of character and the will he backed it up with.”

“I’m going to argue that he’s a contemporary guy, and that we ought to be seeing his behaviour as a precursor to the corporate behaviours that have gutted the resource here ... Mackenzie was a man who wanted to trade goods, and to trade means to want to have the advantage in whatever transaction is occurring. If we cut out all the noble explorer crap, Mackenzie wanted to make a large profit so he could go back to Great Britain and live like a gentleman. Sort of like **Conrad Black**.”

Also in 1985, Fawcett moved to Toronto. This was quickly followed by arguably his most provocative and original non-fiction book, *Cambodia: A Book for People Who Find Television Too Slow* (Talon, 1986) in which he not only provided an alarming account of the

so-called Killing Field atrocities in Khmer Rouge Cambodia in the late 1970s but also offered an ahead-of-its-time analysis of how modern media was increasingly trivializing political news and dumbing down political analysis.

His publisher at New Star Books, **Rolf Maurer**, says Fawcett’s warmth of character caught him off guard. “I worked on a couple of books with Brian around the turn of the century, and so got to



*Cambodia: A Book for People Who Find Television Too Slow* (Talon, 1986) by Brian Fawcett.

know him long enough to get past the carapace, and get to know a writer who was (surprisingly) affectionate and generous, and endlessly, voraciously curious,” said Maurer.

“Brian took writing, and not just his own, but writing in general, seriously. When he wrote something, it was never intended as the last word, but as a way to think about something. He never wrote the same book twice, and they all have interesting things to say. For a long time, my favourite Brian Fawcett book was *The Compact Garden* [Camden House, 1992].”

For *Virtual Clearcut: or, The Way Things Are in My Home Town* (Thomas Allen, 2003), Fawcett received the \$15,000 Pearson Writers’ Trust Non-Fiction Prize in 2004.

Brian Fawcett died February 27, 2022 from a condition called idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, which he was diagnosed with in 2018.

## Bryan Wade (1950–2022)

Born in Sarnia, Ontario in 1950, **Bryan Wade** was a screenwriter and playwright who took writing courses at the University of Victoria and received an MFA degree from the University of



Bryan Wade

California in Motion Picture and Television.

Wade later taught at UBC’s creative writing department where he founded the Brave New Play Rites Festival. Many up-and-coming B.C.

writers have had their plays produced at the festival including Dennis E. Bolen, Stephanie Bolster, Aaron Bushkowsky, Kevin Chong and Maureen Medved. Wade also edited the collection of one-act plays, *Brave New Play Rites* (Anvil Press, 2006) written by students in UBC’s creative writing program.

Bryan Wade died on February 3, 2022 due to an unexpected and brief battle with coronary artery disease.

## Jean Wilson (1945–2022)

Editor **Jean Wilson**’s career in Canadian publishing spanned three university presses and hundreds of books. Getting her start at the University of Toronto Press, Wilson joined UBC Press in 1988 where she acquired new titles, many of which won awards. Wilson earned recognition as a scholar



Jean Wilson

of western Canadian history and also for building UBC’s list of Indigenous titles and establishing the press’ groundbreaking *Sexuality Studies* series.

She was also a founding member of the Editors’ Association of Canada, an adjunct professor at SFU and president of the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia. Wilson helped launch the *Broadside* newspaper and the journal *Room of One’s Own*, and for many years was the reviews editor for *BC Studies* and a member of its editorial board.

Ten years after a devastating stroke, Jean Wilson elected for a medical assistance in death (MAiD) on February 6, 2022.

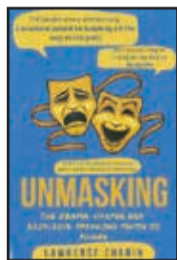
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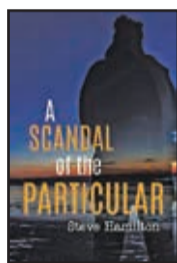
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# COMMUNITY



## Meet Parksville's new bookshop owners

In July 2021, **Kristie** and **Kevin Lauer** (above) bought the Mulberry Bush Bookstore in Parksville and renamed it Sea & Summit Bookshop. The new name reflects their passion for being near the water, climbing mountains and books. Kristie always wanted to own a bookshop and is glad to be located in Parksville as it's close to hikes and beaches. She has a background in bookselling, retail administration and restaurant management. Partner,

Kevin is Kristie's major supporter and cheerleader. The other member of the family is the Lauer's 23-pound Daschund cross that goes by the name, **Chester**. Drop by to chat, pick up a copy of *BC BookWorld* and buy a book.

Recent staff picks for BC books include: **Afterlight: In Search of Poetry, History, and Home** (Heritage House) by **Isa Milman**; **All the Quiet Places: A Novel** (Brindle & Glass) by **Brian Thomas Issac**; and any of the *Lane Winslow Mystery* books including the most recent **Framed in Fire** (TouchWood) by **Iona Whishaw**.

## BC Literary Festivals

**Marisa Alps** will be the new artistic and executive director of the The Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, taking over from **Jane Davidson** who will retire at the end of October, 2022. Alps a long-time marketing manager at Harbour Publishing and Douglas & McIntyre said, "Being chosen as the next artistic and executive director is the opportunity of a lifetime. I am honoured to continue a legacy that was created by a community of people with such foresight and vision: festival founder **Betty Keller**, the original SunCoast Writers Forge, the numerous dedicated board members, producers, sponsors and volunteers, and of course the amazing outgoing AED, Jane Davidson." The festival is in its fifth decade as the country's longest running gathering of Canadian writers and readers and takes place this year on August 11-14 at Sechelt's Rockwood Centre. [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca)



CBC Canada Reads finalist **Angie Abdou** will be a featured writer at this year's Denman Island Readers & Writers Festival, July 14 to 17. Abdou has published seven books and is associate professor of creative writing at Athabasca University. [denmanislandwritersfestival.com](http://denmanislandwritersfestival.com)

## CORRECTIONS

- In *Surviving Samsara* [Spring 2022, page 5], **Mary Fowles** was incorrectly cited as the author of the foreword in the book. Fowles'quotes were attributed in error. In the same article, the photo caption of author, **Kagan Goh** was misspelled as Kagen Goh.
- **Jaime Smith's** postgraduate teaching was done in Nelson, BC, and not Quesnel as noted in the article *The Banquet of Life* [Spring 2022, page 22].

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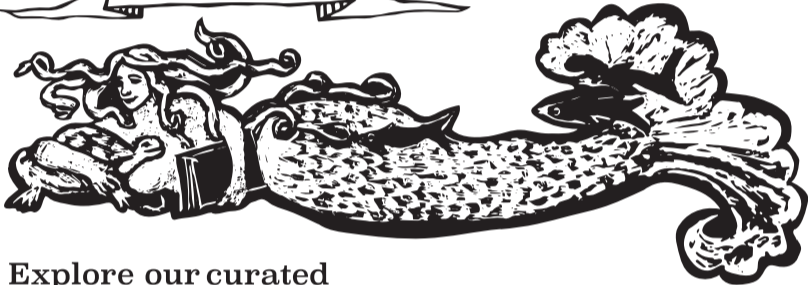
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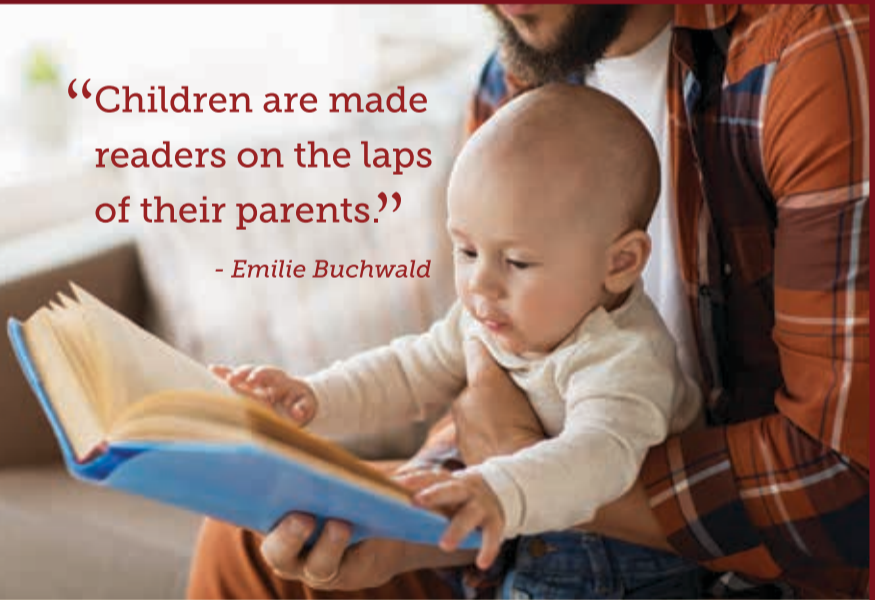


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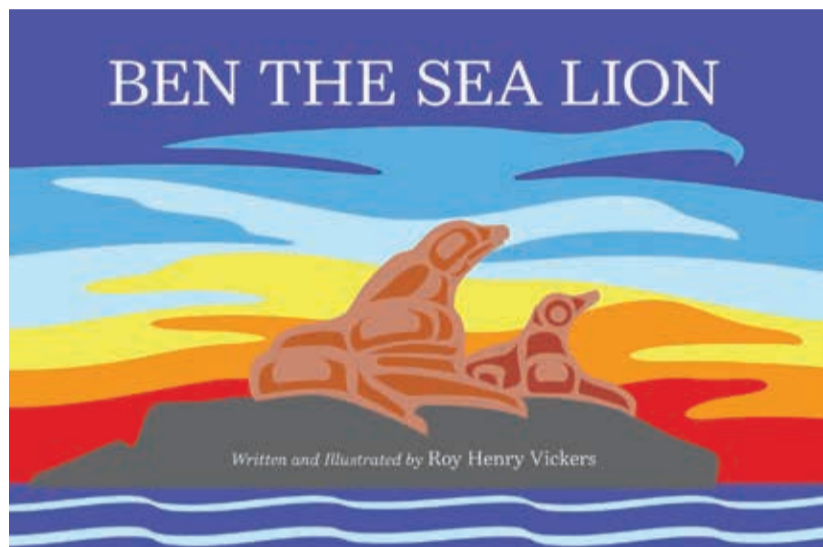
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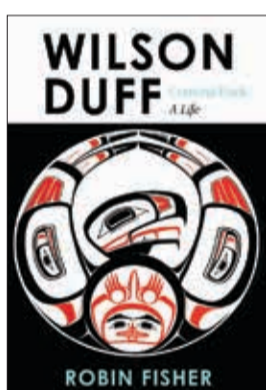
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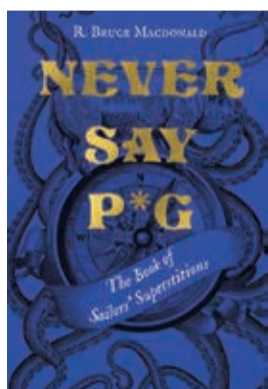
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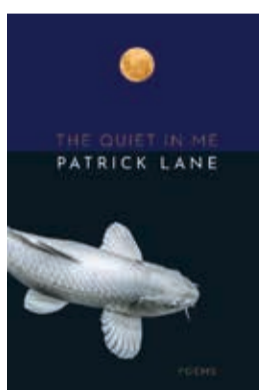


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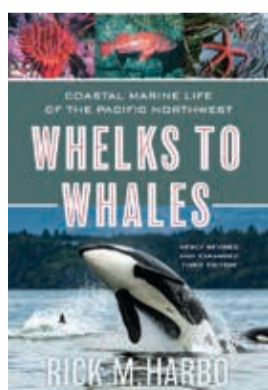
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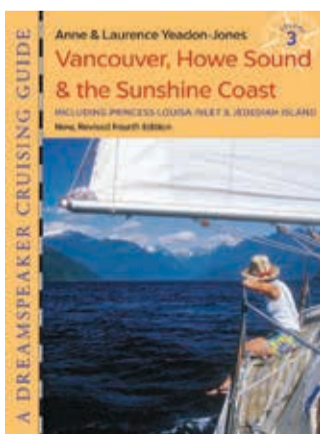
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