

Literary

Alberta Books: Fall Releases 2003

ALTITUDE PUBLISHING

Mary Schaffer: An Adventurous Woman's Exploits in the Canadian Rockies by Jill Foran
Romance in the Rockies: The Life and Achievements of Catharine and Peter Whyte by Kim Mayberry
Rescue Dogs: Crime and Rescue Canines in the Canadian Rockies by Dale Portman
Ghost Town Stories: Abandoned Dreams in the Shadows of the Canadian Rockies by Johnnie Bachusky
Wilderness Tales: Adventures in the Backcountry by Peter Christensen
Sam Steele: The Wild West Adventures of Canada's Most Famous Mountie by Holly Quan
Rebel Women: Achievements Beyond the Ordinary by Linda Kupecek
The Heart of a Horse: Poignant Tales and Humorous Escapades by Gayle Bunney
Alberta Titans: From Rags to Riches During

Alberta's Pioneer Days by Susan Warrender
Dinosaur Hunters: Uncovering the Hidden Remains of Canada's Ancient Giants by Lisa Murphy-Lamb
Ma Murray: The Story of Canada's Crusty Queen of Publishing by Stan Sauerwein
Ghost Towns Stories II: From Renegade to Ruin Along the Red Coat Trail by Johnnie Bachusky
Women Explorers: One Hundred Years of Courage and Audacity by Helen Rolfe
West Coast Adventures: Shipwrecks, Lighthouses and Rescues along Canada's West Coast by Adrienne Mason
Vancouver's Old-Time Scoundrels: Gassy Jack's Exploits and Other Skulduggery by Jill Foran
Emily Carr: The Incredible Life and Adventures of a West Coast Artist by Cat Klerks
Rattenbury: The Life and Tragic End of BC's Greatest Architect by Stan Sauerwein
Tales from the West Coast: Smugglers, Sea Monsters and Other Stories by Adrienne Mason
Niagara Daredevils: Thrills and Spills over Niagara Falls by Cheryl MacDonald
Edwin Alonzo Boyd: The Life and Crimes of Canada's Master Bank Robber by Nate Hendley
Unsung Heroes of the Royal Canadian Air Force: Incredible Tales of Courage during World War II by Cynthia J. Faryon

ARSENAL PULP PRESS
Spree: A Cultural History of Shopping by Pamela Klaffke

BANFF CENTRE PRESS
Word Carving: The Craft of Literary Journalism eds. Moira Farr and Ian Pearson
Mary of Canada: The Virgin Mary in Canadian Culture, Spirituality, History, and Geography by Joan Skogan
Wild Theatre: The History of One Yellow Rabbit by Martin Morrow

BAYEUX ARTS

The Sorcerer's Last Words by Judd Palmer
The Wolf King by Judd Palmer
The Devil's Chair by Alexander Binning
Le Pétrole: Humanity in Canada's Drilling Camps by Marie-France Leroyer
Take Me to Your Leader by Richard Stevenson
The General: Georges Doriot on Leadership, Capital and Business Organization by Udayan Gupta
The Entrepreneurial Lawyer: Richard Testa and the Massachusetts High-Tech Dream by Udayan Gupta
Robert Dallas en Provence by Robert Dallas

BOOKS COLLECTIVE

Dreams of the Sea by Élisabeth Vonarburg
Where the Buffalo Jump by Gerri Cook
Christmas in the Badlands by Gerri Cook

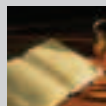
BRINDLE & GLASS PUBLISHING

Succession by Art Norris
The Slip-Knot by T. J. Dawe

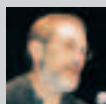
BROADVIEW PRESS

Nellie McClung: The Complete Autobiography: Clearing in the West & The Stream Runs Fast eds. Veronica Strong-Boag and Michelle Lynn Rosa
Gabriel Dumont by George Woodcock
Western Visions, Western Futures by Roger Gibbins & Loleen Berdahl
Between Two Worlds by Miriam Tlali
A Home for the Highland Cattle & The Anthep by Doris Lessing
A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles 2nd ed., by Leslie Maitland, Shannon Ricketts and Jacqueline Hucker
Still Counting: Women in Politics Across Canada by Linda Trimble & Jane Arscott
Between History and Tomorrow: Making and

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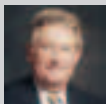
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Breaking Everyday Life in Newfoundland
by Gerald Sider

COTEAU BOOKS

Love is an Octopus by Zhauna Alexander

DOUGLAS & McINTYRE

Lightning by Fred Stenson

Village of the Small Houses by Ian Ferguson

FIFTH HOUSE PRESS

The 2004 Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar

by David Phillips

**All Hell Can't Stop Us: The On-to-Ottawa Trek
and Regina Riot** by Bill Waiser

**Boondoggles, Bonanzas, and Other Alberta
Stories** by Brian Brennan

**Don't Name the Ducks, and Other Truths About
Life in the Country** by Wendy Dudley

**Learning from the Forest: A Fifty-Year Journey
Towards Sustainable Forest Management**

by Robert Bott, Peter Murphy and Robert Udell

**The Stone Age: A Social History of Curling on
the Prairies** by Vera Pezer

FOLKLORE PUBLISHING

Crazy Horse: Warrior Spirit of the Sioux

by Tony Hollihan

Louis Riel by Dan Asfar & Tim Chodan

Gabriel Dumont by Dan Asfar & Tim Chodan

Mountain Men by Tony Hollihan

Mobsters and Rumrunners of Canada

by Gordon Steinke

Desperados of the Depression by Stone Wallace
Bush Pilots by Peter Boer

FRONTENAC HOUSE

Wayward by Ali Riley

go-go dancing for Elvis by Leslie Greentree

A Gloss on Our Painted Gods by Eric Barstad

Dinner at Madonna's by Kevin Irie

GHOST HOUSE BOOKS

Halloween Recipes & Crafts by Christine Savage
and Rosa Poulin

Canadian Ghost Stories Volume II by Sue Smitten,
Edrick Thay, Dale Jarvis and Vernon Oickle

Fireside Ghost Stories by A.S. Mott

Ghost Stories of the Civil War by Dan Asfar &
Edrick Thay

Romantic Ghost Stories by Julie Burtinshaw

Campfire Ghost Stories Volume II by Andrew Warwick

Haunted Pets & Animals by Darren Zenko

Victorian Ghost Stories by Jo-Anne Christensen

Urban Legends by A.S. Mott

Haunted Battlefields by Dan Asfar

LONE PINE PUBLISHING

**Alberta's Camelot: Culture and the Arts in the
Lougheed Years** by Fil Fraser

NEWEST PRESS

**Playing Dead: A Contemplation Concerning the
Arctic** by Rudy Wiebe

Working North: DEW Line to Drill Ship

by Rick Ranson

Big Rig 2: More Comic Tales from a Long Haul Trucker by Don McTavish
Better Than Life by Margaret Gunning

RED DEER PRESS

Hidden Buffalo by Rudy Wiebe
Christmas in Canada: A Celebration of Stories From Past To Present by Rick Book
My Home Bay by Anne Laurel Carter
In Abby's Hands by Wendy A. Lewis
Missing Matthew by Kristyn Dunnion
Mordecai and Me: An Appreciation of a Kind by Joel Yanofsky
Alias Bob Dylan Revisited by Stephen Scobie
Pornograph by Jonathan Wilcke
The Longest Road: Stories Along the Trans-Canada Highway by Bob Weber
Falling for Snow: A Naturalist's Journey into the World of Winter by Jamie Bastedo
Open Space: New Canadian Fantastic Fiction ed. Claude Lalumière

SPOTTED COW PRESS

Survival Secrets: Critical Life Saving Skills from Canada's Leading Expert on Extreme Outdoor Survival Training by Brian Emdin
Getting to Know You by Gerald Hill
Living and Loving Each Day: Success in a Blended Family by Dr. Henry L. Janzen with Susan C. Janzen
Weird Tit-for-Tat: The Game of Our Lives by Susan Minsos
Are You Serious? A Family's Devastating

Encounter with Brain Injury by Barrie Nowell and Rebecca Nowell
City Slicker Chickens and Other Tales by Moneca Wilson

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRESS

Adapted Physical Activity eds. Robert D. Steadward, Garry D. Wheeler and E. Jane Watkinson
Archbishop A.-A. Taché of St. Boniface: The "Good Fight" and the Illusive Vision by Raymond Joseph Armand Huel
Building Sustainable Peace eds. Tom Keating and W. Andy Knight
High River and the Times: An Alberta Community and Its Weekly Newspaper, 1905–1966 by Paul Voisey
Industrial Safety and Risk Management by Laird Wilson and Doug McCutcheon
The Lady Named Thunder: A Biography of Dr. Ethel Margaret Phillips (1876–1951) by Clifford H. Phillips and Brian Evans
Ms. Holmes of Baker Street: The Truth About Sherlock by C. Allan Bradley and William A.S. Sarjeant
Poetics of Naming by George R. Melnyk
Rolling On: The Story of the Amazing Gary McPherson by Gerald W. Hankins
Spoken Cree, Level II by C. Douglas Ellis
State of Struggle: Feminism and Politics in Alberta by Lois Harder
Telling Tales: Storytelling in the Family by Gail de

Vos, Merle Harris and Celia Barker Lottridge
Heart of a Stranger by Margaret Laurence
The Politics of Cultural Mediation: Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven and Felix Paul Greve eds. Paul Hjartarson and Tracy Kulba

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY PRESS

The Wild Rose Anthology of Alberta Prose eds. George Melnyk and Tamara Palmer Seiler
The Prisoner of Cage Farm by Cecelia Frey
The Citizen's Voice: Twentieth-Century Politics and Literature by Michael Keren
Eugene A. Forsey: An Intellectual Biography by Frank Milligan
Jemmy Jock Bird: Marginal Man on the Blackfoot Frontier by John C. Jackson
The People Who Own Themselves: Aboriginal Ethnogenesis in a Canadian Family, 1660-1900 by Heather Devine
War North of 80: The Last German Arctic Weather Station of World War II by Wilhelm Dege, translated by William Barr
Writing Geographical Exploration: Thomas James and the Northwest Passage, 1631-1633 by Wayne K. D. Davies
As Long as This Land Shall Last: A History of Treaty 8 and Treaty 11, 1870-1939 by René Fumoleau
To Be a Cowboy: Oliver Christensen's Story by Barbara Holliday
Far from Home: A Memoir of a Twentieth-Century Soldier by Jeffery Williams

A Tribute to Fred Wah

by Nancy Jo Cullen



*The delight of making inner
an outer world for me
is when I tree myself
and my slight voice screams glee to him
now preparing his craft for the Bifrost
Kerykeion he said, the shore
now a cold March mist moves
down through the cow pasture
out of the trees
among, among*

Fred Wah, *Among*

Last May, the University of Calgary hosted “Alley Alley Home Free: A North American Poetry and Poetics Conference and Festival” to honour the work of Fred Wah, who retired from the university in June. The two-day event consisted of evening readings and daytime panel sessions intended to develop dialogue among participants. Plenary sessions covered subjects and issues with which Wah dealt throughout his writing and teaching career—race, hybridity, biotextuality and gender—and stand as a testament to Wah’s involvement in the development of Canada’s and Alberta’s literary communities.

The conference was an extravaganza of contemporary poetry. The event kicked off Thursday with a great evening reading by Wah. There are many poets who can write, but not read. Wah is not one of them—he enjoys reading and it’s obvious. His was the first of three readings during the conference; Friday night featured a reading by some of Wah’s former students, and Saturday featured seven distinguished contemporary poets.

Friday’s reading reflected the breadth of Wah’s influence on Canadian poetry and poetics. Fast-paced (poets were limited to two minutes) and marked by a diversity of writers and styles, this “oral anthology” introduced attendees to some of Canada’s up-and-coming poets.

The seven poets who read on Saturday included Reza Baraheni, Charles Bernstein (Wah’s former teacher), George Bowering, Robert Kroetsch, Daphne Marlatt, Roy Miki and Erin Mouré. These writers, gathered to celebrate

the work of Wah and his wife Pauline Butling (a notable critic in her own right), represent some of our best contemporary poets and critics.

Working the registration table early Friday morning gave me a chance to observe the diverse group as it arrived. The aging corridor outside the Boris Roubakine Recital Hall was bustling with energy and crowded with students, writers and academics. A community of poets (and their ilk) were gathered to share ideas and to send Wah and Butling off from the academic milieu with which they were involved for so many years; Wah and Butling were among friends. “Among” is the word Wah used to describe his relationship to words and students, books and publishing, and writing/teaching in a small but extended literary community.

When we met to speak about his time in Calgary, Wah was quizzical; what was the point of this interview? He kicked the interview process up a notch, perhaps to bring it into the realm of poetics and certainly to keep away from a staid regurgitation of his biography. It was, I suspect, classic Wah: always looking for a different way into a subject, the unobserved meaning.

I asked him about place—this is, after all, an Alberta magazine. But if Wah identifies with a single place it would be the West Kootenay, where he grew up and still keeps a home. Identifying with a place can be restrictive, but if pushed, Wah will identify himself with the West—born in Saskatchewan, raised in British Columbia, many years in

Alberta as well as a stint in Manitoba. He is an inspired teacher, deeply involved in the development of his community—he travels to the work. And so he traveled to Calgary and spent 15 years here.

During his tenure at the U of C, Wah was influential in such initiatives as the Markin-Flanagan Programme, which hosts distinguished writers from around the world and each year employs an emerging Canadian author as writer in residence. He was involved in the rebirth of the literary journal *dANDelion*, and it was Wah's former students who founded *filling Station*. The U of C's English department has flourished during the past decade and become a school of choice for young writers looking to pursue post-secondary education. The innovative and exciting department graduates important young voices in Canada's literary scene, and many of them studied under Wah.

Wah's approach to teaching involves creating a classroom workshop where student work is critiqued by the entire class, in order to develop critical abilities. Students are also engaged in publishing activity for the duration of the workshop, regularly producing small literary journals. Wah sees writing as a public activity, a place where social and cultural critique can be provided. He encourages his students to take the same approach. This approach to teaching is a reflection of Wah's own career. As a student at UBC in the 1960s, he was a founding editor of the poetry newsletter *TISH*, and was subsequently involved in

other literary publications such as *Open Letter* and *West Coast Line*.

Activism takes many forms. Wah could be described as a community development worker—his career as a writer and teacher has fostered innovations in writing, dialogue around issues such as race and gender, and the development of small literary publishing ventures. His students

Wah sees writing as a public activity, a place of social and cultural critique. He encourages his students to take the same approach.

continue such literary activities, helping to create a vibrant and thriving writing and publishing community across the country.

We've been lucky to have Fred Wah among us for the past 15 years, kicking up the literary dialogue(s), developing community and delighting in making the inner an outer world.

Nancy Jo Cullen's first book of poetry, *Science Fiction Saint*, was nominated for two Alberta Book Awards.

Alberta Unreviewed

by Gordon Morash

During my annual bookshelf cull, I came upon a volume that is now 31 years old. *Read Canadian: A Book about Canadian Books*, edited by Robert Fulford, David Godfrey and Abraham Rotstein, is one of those ur-texts spawned in the flowering of CanLit. I return to it periodically, because it helps me realize just how far we have come—and how far we have not. Over the past five years, many have examined the literary road traveled, among them Philip Marchand in *Ripostes: Reflections on Canadian Literature*, T.F. Rigelhof in *This Is Our Writing*, and Stephen Henighan in *When Words Deny the World: The Reshaping of Canadian Writing*. All of them are intent not only on bringing readers to Canadian-authored books, but on examining what constitutes our literature.

For nine years, from 1992 to 2001, I edited the books pages for the *Edmonton Journal*. Late last year, while doing research for the Canadian book-trade monthly *Quill & Quire*, I revisited some of my work, as well as that of my colleague Ken McGoogan, former literary editor of the *Calgary Herald*. In those days, both Ken and I placed a high premium on the presence of Canadian-authored books on our pages. In Ken's Saturday section, for instance, readers could expect 50 per cent of books reviewed to be homegrown; and at their peak, my *Journal* pages on Sunday were 60 per cent pure Canuck. Today, national newspapers cover CanLit, with *The Globe and Mail* leading the way. As book editor Martin Levin wrote in his July 5 column: "That, after all, is a large part of our mandate."

In Alberta, however, things have gone awry. The number of Canadian books reviewed in both the *Herald* and the *Journal* has shrunk drastically. In a count of full reviews—as opposed to capsule or combo mentions—spanning the six months from April to September 2003, Canadian content of the *Journal* dropped to 27.5 per cent. Only 80 of the 290 full reviews were of Canadian books. The *Herald* was slightly better at 34.6 per cent, with 27 of the 78 reviews being of Canadian books. Also notice the disparity in the content of the two books sections: Calgary averages three reviews per week, Edmonton around a dozen.

What is worse, however, is the lack of Alberta coverage. The *Journal* ponied up space for only 13 Alberta books or 4.5 per cent of the six-month total, while the *Herald* reviewed nine titles, for 11.5 per cent. The lack of local literary concern is seen even in the best-seller lists. Formerly, Alberta titles were highlighted with asterisks.

That evidence of "star quality" is gone from Calgary's pages, while the Edmonton paper isn't too sure it wants to draw attention to Alberta titles. Of the 26 Edmonton best-seller lists consulted, only seven showcased Alberta titles. A pity, really, given that one of the great unsung local stories was the 26-week stand on the list of Ian McGillis's set-in-Edmonton novel *A Tourist's Guide to Glengarry*; in 12 of those weeks, the book was in the number-one position.

This only serves to draw attention to other omissions. Readers in Calgary, for instance, might ask why they never saw a review of Edmonton writer Gloria Sawai's Governor General's Award-winning short-story collection, *A Song for Nettie Johnson*. At least the *Journal* covered the book, albeit four months after its release in the fall of 2001. And Edmonton CanCultists might wonder about a certain acclaimed born-in-Calgary poetry series from Frontenac House, *Quartet 2003*, covered in the *Herald* and *The Globe and Mail* but not in the *Journal*.

This season, Giller Prize-winning David Adams Richards's new novel, *River of the Brokenhearted*, was one of the most eagerly awaited Canadian releases. Its official publication date on August 23 garnered the usual flurry of author profiles and reviews that weekend in *The Globe and Mail*, the *Montreal Gazette*, the *Vancouver Sun*, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the *Toronto Star*, the *National Post* and the *Ottawa Citizen*, but nothing in the *Journal* or the *Herald*. In fact, *Journal* readers would wait four weeks before a review finally appeared in the Sunday books pages.

Why should the *Journal* and the *Herald* take more than a passing interest in Richards, a former New Brunswicker who sets his books in the Miramichi River district of that province? Well, for starters, he has history in both Edmonton and Calgary. Richards was writer in residence at the University of Alberta in 1990. In Calgary, he headlined PanCanadian WordFest in 2001.

But more than that, timely reviews are the equivalent of breaking news coverage for the literary-minded. Books as culturally important as Richards's or as locally and nationally significant as Sawai's or the Frontenac *Quartet* series demand coverage not just because they are Canadian, Edmontonian or Calgarian, but simply for the sake of their being literary events on the Alberta scene.

Edmonton-based writer and editor **Gordon Morash** writes widely on books, publishing and Canadian culture.



Recommended Reading

“What is the best Alberta book to curl up with this winter?”



“My vote is for Fred Stenson’s recent novels. *The Trade* tells the story of the last days of the fur trade in western Canada, including a less-than-flattering view of the Hudson’s Bay Company. His new book, *Lightning*, takes up where *The Trade* leaves off and deals with the open-range ranch-

ing era, following cowboys moving cattle from Montana to Alberta. Both books are satisfying reads—especially from the perspective of a comfy sofa in front of a blazing fireplace.”—**Hilary Munro**, head of Adult Services, Medicine Hat Public Library



“*The Words of My Roaring*, by Robert Kroetsch, is a great comic novel about electioneering, about a prairie on the edge of being beaten by the depression, and how just one promise gives everyone belief in change. It’s also about Alberta politics, Alberta politicians, and the rituals of voting in

Alberta. This is a book that echoes history, that is full of humour and lies, and shows how in Alberta, hope is always stronger than reason... It’s a perfect book in a pre-election year.”—**Aritha van Herk**, Calgary writer and professor



“Aritha van Herk’s *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta* is the most readable history of Alberta ever written. Van Herk uses her talents as a novelist and storyteller to bring colour, energy, graceful writing and an important Western point of view to telling the tales of Alberta’s past. If you only

read one book about Alberta’s history, this should be the one.”—**Brian Brennan**, *Alberta* author



“I recommend a book by Calgary writer Tyler Trafford titled *The Meema: Generations Will Live Forever*. It’s a new biography of Bella Singer, a woman who lived her adult life in Calgary after fleeing the anti-Jewish pogroms of her native Poland just prior to the outbreak of the First World War. Once

she arrived in Calgary, Bella devoted much of her life to helping European Jewish families escape oppression and move to Canada.

“Many Albertans will be familiar with the contributions of Bella Singer and her family to Calgary’s cultural life. They might be less familiar, however, with the story of Bella’s early life in pre-war Poland. Trafford has brought a lot of poignancy and colour to that part of Bella’s life story, making the book a memorable read.

“The book is independently published and might be difficult to find in bookstores. I understand, however, that it’s in many libraries and archives across the province. It’s worth tracking down!”—**Ralph Klein**, Premier of Alberta



“I’d recommend a brand new book by Fil Fraser called *Alberta’s Camelot*. Fil Fraser is a man of many arts hats, from CKUA DJ to CEO of Vision TV. Now he’s back in Edmonton and has written a bracing and passionate tale, chock full of anecdotes and characters, about that Golden Age of Alberta arts and artists, the Peter Lougheed years when—oh, happiness—we had ministers of culture and vision paid in full.”

—**Myrna Kostash**, 2003 University of Alberta Writer in Residence



“*Mind Over Mountains*. This collection of poetry by the late Jon Whyte both challenges and entertains. Written in a stunning variety of forms, and with subject matter ranging from Central Asian air travel to the rocks of the Rockies, these are poems to read, to mull over, and to read again.”

—**Alexander Rettie**, *AlbertaViews* book reviewer



“*Just Another Indian: A Serial Killer and Canada’s Indifference*, by Warren Goulding, is a story about John Martin Crawford, currently serving concurrent life sentences for brutally murdering four women. Author Goulding challenges us to take a hard look at society’s attitude that some lives are worth

more than others. The most marginalized people in Canada are most targeted by those who would do harm, because nobody cares. This story is all the more poignant in light of the investigations of murdered and missing women in Vancouver, and the murder of prostitutes in and around Edmonton.”—**Debora Steel**, Editor-in-Chief, *Windspeaker*