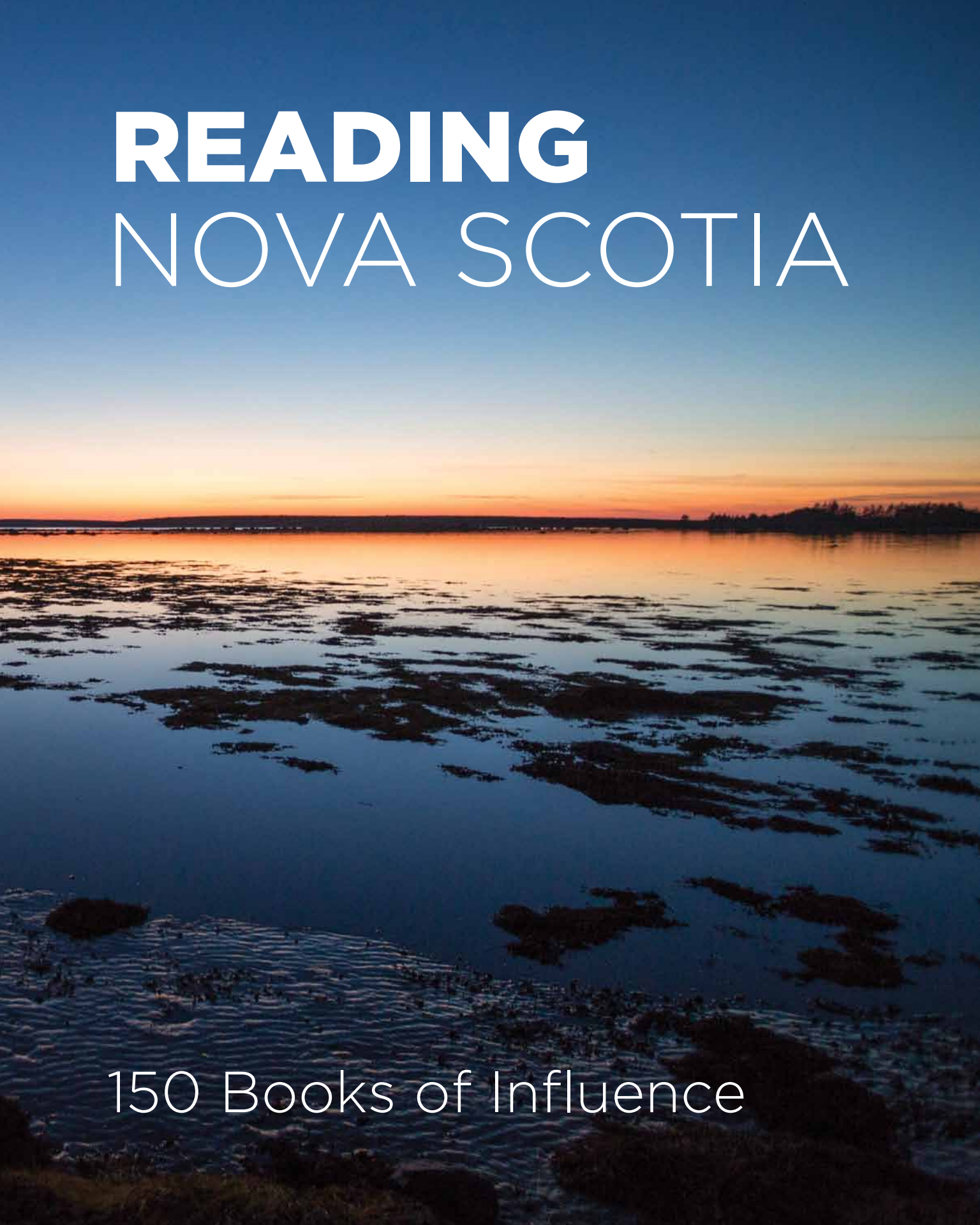
READING NOVA SCOTIA



150 Books of Influence

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Len Wagg
Below (left to right):Truro Library, formerly the Provincial Normal College for Training Teachers, 1878–1961:
Norma Johnson-MacGregor
Photos of Halifax Central Library interiors: Adam Mørk

READING
NOVA SCOTIA
150 Books of Influence

A province-wide library project of the Nova Scotia Library Association and Nova Scotia's nine Regional Public Library systems in honour of the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

The 150 Books of Influence Project Committee
recognizes the support of the Province of Nova Scotia.
We are pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians.

LIBRARIES 150

NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

Final publication date November 2017.

THE PREMIER
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

August 15, 2017

In honour of the 150th Anniversary of Confederation, the Nova Scotia Library Association and Nova Scotia's public libraries have developed a unique partnership that celebrates Nova Scotia's diverse writers and citizens, ideas and attitudes, culture and environment, stories and treasures: ***Libraries 150***.

The cornerstone of ***Libraries 150*** is the compilation of *150 Books of Influence*, a commemorative list of 150 books that Nova Scotians believe have influenced or defined them as a people. Canada's sesquicentennial is a perfect opportunity to examine and consider those books which reflect our current state as a people and province, as well as the books that mark our progress over the decades since Confederation.

This project memorializes the literary works of Nova Scotia, and leaves a cultural legacy for future generations of readers that will be forever accessible to the public.

When we share our stories, we strengthen our community. I know that Nova Scotians will find the compilation of *150 Books of Influence* to be inspirational and educational.

Sincerely,

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier

NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

Books are our finest calling card to the world. The stories they share travel far and wide, and contribute greatly to our global presence. Books have the power to profoundly express the complex and rich cultural life that makes Nova Scotia a place people want to visit, live, work and play.

This year, the 150th Anniversary of Confederation provided Public Libraries across the province with a unique opportunity to involve Nova Scotians in a celebration of our literary heritage. The value of public engagement in the 150 Books of Influence project is demonstrated by the astonishing breadth and quality of titles listed within. The booklist showcases the diversity and creativity of authors, both past and present, who have called Nova Scotia home.

The 150 Books of Influence is both a celebration of our historic creativity and a signal of the progress Nova Scotia has made in appreciating the stories of our diverse communities. Along with literary award winners included on the list are landmark publications promoting greater understanding of Mi'kmaw culture, award-winning Acadian literature, renowned works by and about African Nova Scotians, and must-reads for Gaelic speakers. The list also illustrates the excellent work of Public Libraries in cultural stewardship, ensuring public awareness and access to Nova Scotia's literary heritage.

Moving forward, actions in Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan: Creativity and Community, are committed to strengthening relationships between authors, publishers, Public Libraries and readers. This is key to creating a positive cultural environment where storytelling and writers can thrive, and our stories can reach beyond our shores.

Congratulations to all those involved with the project. I am confident that Nova Scotians, and visitors from around the world, will enjoy these books for years to come.

Leo Glavine

Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister
Communities, Culture & Heritage

INTRODUCTION

The 150 Books of Influence project was borne out of a desire by Nova Scotia's Public Libraries to participate in Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation by celebrating the Province's literary and reading history. To be a worthy legacy, this project needed to draw upon the unique knowledge that Public Library staff have garnered from years of serving their communities, and leverage the special relationship between the Library and its users. Ultimately it became clear that the goal of the project would be to create a booklist, which would capture the books that live in the hearts of Nova Scotia's readers. The books would be significant in that they would help define the Nova Scotia experience for the reader.

To realize the project's goal, several unique partnerships were formed. The Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) took a lead role, working with Public Library Regions and the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS). To publicize the project and ensure its success, NSLA reached out to the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) and One Book Nova Scotia, and formed key partnerships. The 150 Books of Influence Project Committee gratefully acknowledges and thanks all of the project partners.

During the Summer of 2017, hundreds of books were nominated by the public. In addition, Library staff put forward titles to ensure that the list would be inclusive and representative of the Nova Scotian books that have been continually requested for many years. Project committee members also reached out to community and cultural groups to gather their input, and contacted many Nova Scotia publishers for their assistance. Special thanks to Nimbus Publishing for their support of the project, and for providing several book cover images.

In late August 2017, all nominated books were considered by a committee of librarians. With the criteria that the author be Nova Scotian or that the books have a strong focus on Nova Scotia, there were far too many wonderful titles to include them all in the booklist. Nevertheless, after much debate, the 150 Books of Influence were determined.

The 150 books listed on the following pages are organized alphabetically by title, and the intended audience is identified for each entry. The list includes works for all ages — children, teen and adult. Finally, included are descriptions and comments submitted by readers or if those were not available, comments generated by Library staff. To protect privacy, individuals' names are not included. Instead, sources are identified as "Reader" or "Librarian." When neither personalized description was available, excerpted publishers' information is included, and these entries are identified as such.

The aim of this project was to create a true record of social communication about reading. There are numerous worthy books missing from the list, but the hope is that it can serve as the departure point for lively debates about Nova Scotian books and authors. Although reading is a quiet activity, the voices of the readers and Library staff in the following pages are passionate. It is clear that Nova Scotia's books matter.

Thank you.

The 150 Books of Influence Project Committee:

Lesley Brann, Colchester-East Hants Public Library

Denise Corey, Cumberland Public Libraries

Laura Emery, Eastern Counties Regional Library

Kristel Fleuren-Hunter, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

Cynthia Gatto, Halifax Public Libraries

Joanne Head, Western Counties Regional Library

Catherine Kelly, Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Cynthia Lelliott, Nova Scotia Library Association (President)

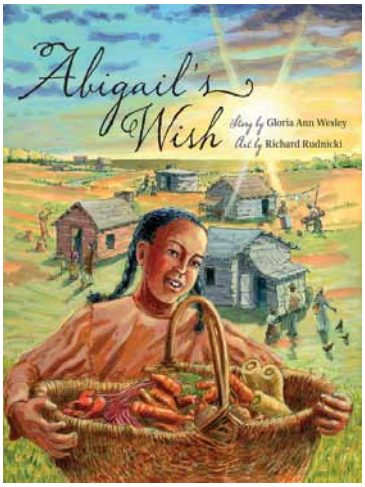
Erin Phillips, Cape Breton Regional Library

Christina Pottie, South Shore Public Libraries

Angela Reynolds, Annapolis Valley Regional Library

Trecia Schell, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

Suzanne van den Hoogen, Atlantic Provinces Library Association (Past President)



Abigail's Wish
Gloria Ann Wesley and Richard Rudnicki (Illustrator)

This children's book is the first picture book to be set in historic Birchtown, Nova Scotia. It gives young readers valuable insights into Black Loyalist life in 1783, and teaches them that poverty should not keep children from dreaming. Moving towards inclusiveness and diversity in Nova Scotia will mean greater recognition, acceptance of and celebration of books outside the prevailing stream of consciousness.

Reader

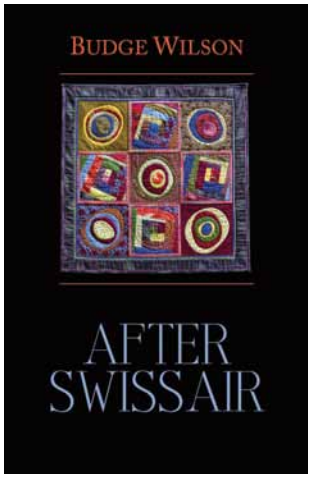
CHILDREN'S FICTION

Les Acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse
Alphonse Deveau and Sally Ross

Premier ouvrage portant exclusivement sur le sujet, *Les Acadiens de la Nouvelle-Ècosse*, hier et aujourd'hui trace un portrait à la fois historique et actuel de la culture acadienne de la Nouvelle-Ècosse. Si l'on connaît bien le premier siècle et demi d'existence de l'Acadie néo-écossaise, on en savait beaucoup moins sur le retour des déportés dans leur terre natale et leur difficile réadaptation aux nouvelles conditions de vie. Cette étude vient combler ce vide. Ainsi, elle retrace les grandes lignes du développement des sept régions acadiennes d'après la Déportation et expose les particularités qui les unissent. Elle met aussi en lumière les choix et les défis qui se sont posés aux Acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse au cours du 20e siècle, particulièrement depuis les années 1960. L'édition originale anglaise de cette étude a mérité le City of Dartmouth Book Award et le Evelyn Richardson Memorial Literary Award.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

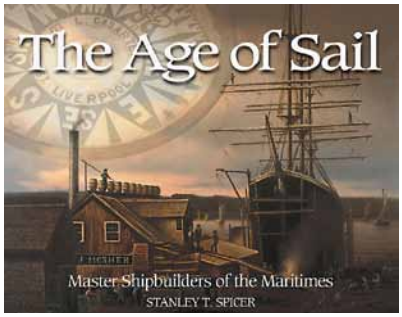


After Swissair
Budge Wilson

A moving and beautiful book of poetry from one of Nova Scotia's finest authors. For all those still affected by the tragedy of Swissair Flight 111, and for all people who may not know the harrowing and yet life-affirming details of the event, and for all people who enjoy a heart-thumping and heart-opening read, I highly recommend *After Swissair* by Order of Canada recipient, Budge Wilson.

Reader

ADULT POETRY



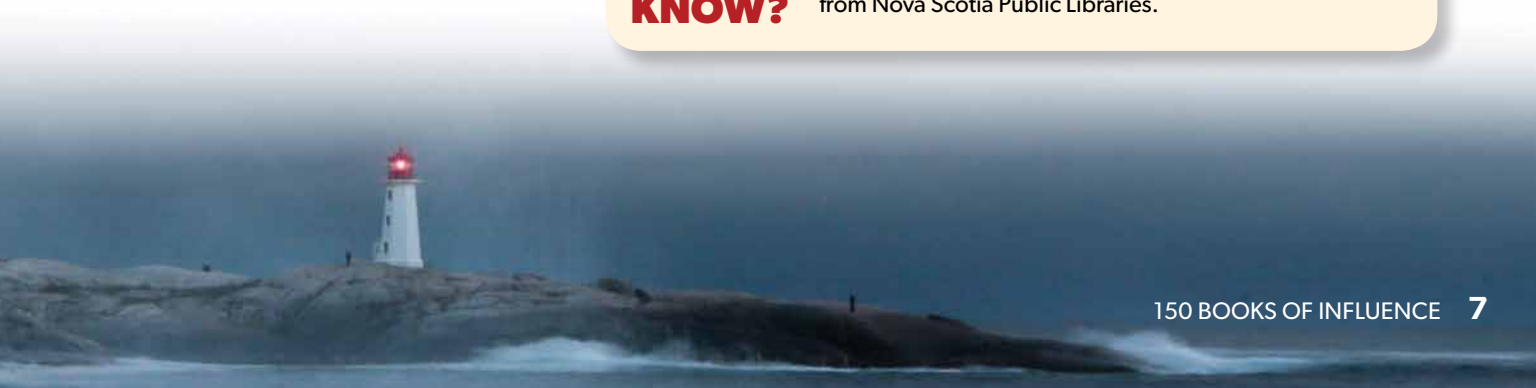
The Age of Sail: Master Shipbuilders of the Maritimes
Stanley T. Spicer

This book focuses on the story of the launching of 26,000 ships in an 80-year span — a time of wealth and adventures, dangers and daring. This time greatly affected the coastal regions of the Maritimes.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

DID YOU KNOW? 400 ebooks published by Atlantic publishers are available from Nova Scotia Public Libraries.

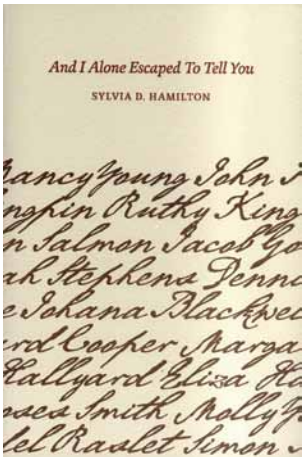


Alma
Georgette LeBlanc

Les effets de la Crise économique de 1929 et de la Seconde Guerre mondiale sur une petite communauté rurale sont décrits à travers les gestes quotidiens de cette femme qui se transforme en poème. Écrit en langue acadienne de la Baie Sainte-Marie, en Nouvelle-Écosse, ce premier recueil exceptionnel démontre un savoir-faire d'une très grande finesse, une profonde analyse des sentiments humains et un respect absolu pour les mots.

Publisher

ADULT POETRY

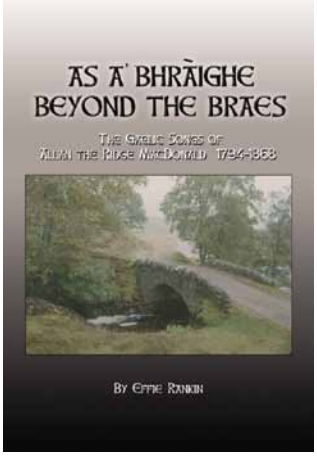


And I Alone Escaped to Tell You
Sylvia D. Hamilton

The settlement of African peoples in Nova Scotia is a richly layered story encompassing many waves of settlement and diverse circumstances, from captives to freedom runners who sailed north from the United States with hopes of establishing a new life. The poems in *And I Alone Escaped to Tell You* endeavour to give these historical events a human voice, blending documentary material, memory, experience and imagination to evoke the lives of these early Black Nova Scotians and of the generations that followed. This collection is a moving meditation on the place of African-descended people in the Canadian story and on the threads connecting all of us to the African diaspora.

Publisher

ADULT POETRY

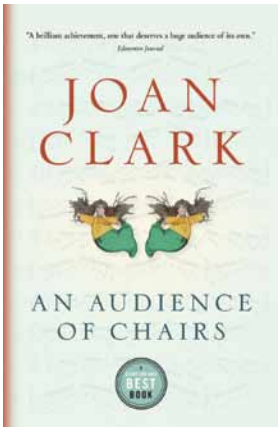


As a' Bhràighe / Beyond the Braes: The Gaelic Songs of Allan the Ridge MacDonald, 1794–1868
Effie Rankin

Allan the Ridge was a very important early bard in Cape Breton from the Mabou area, and Effie's own history in Nova Scotia is quite fascinating—she was recruited to teach in Cape Breton as a native Gaelic speaker from Scotland in the 1970s.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

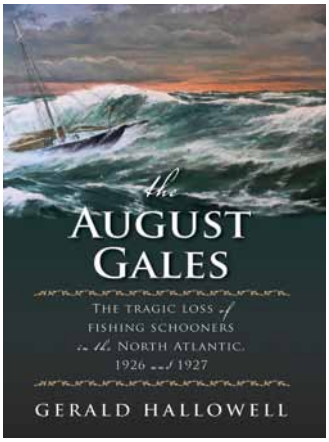


An Audience of Chairs
Joan Clark

Clark's characters get under the skin and don't leave. Moranna is no different — you laugh with her, cry with her, rage with her, and then you rage against her decisions. A great profile of what it is like to be a middle-aged woman dealing with a mental illness, and how society still isn't very accepting. I read this book 11 years ago, and was mad at myself for not reading it as soon as it came out (I read the book when it was a year old), and it is more fresh than some of what I read earlier this month. The grocery store scene in Baddeck is an all-time favourite for humour while the camping trip breaks my heart.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

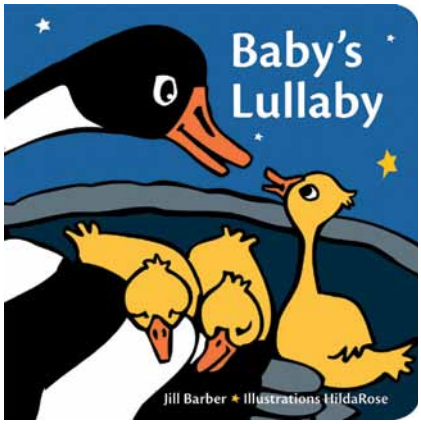


The August Gales: The Tragic Loss of Fishing Schooners in the North Atlantic, 1926 and 1927
Gerald Hallowell

Tells of the lives of many fishermen of Lunenburg County — their struggles and suffering — lives lost in the gales of August. Beautifully written and researched — a testament to all who fished our waters.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



Baby's Lullaby
Jill Barber and Hilda Rose (Illustrator)

Barber is a Canadian singer/songwriter and winner of numerous East Coast Music Awards. This board book is based on a lullaby written for the Read to Me! Program, and has been distributed to many babies born in Nova Scotia via Read to Me! bags.

Librarian

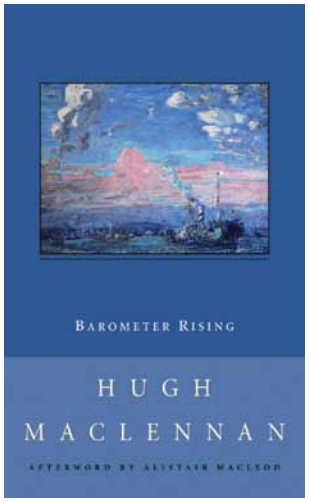
CHILDREN'S FICTION

Ballads and Sea Songs from Nova Scotia
W. Roy Mackenzie

Mackenzie was one of the earliest and most prominent folklore scholars to collect songs in Nova Scotia. His work inspired Helen Creighton's career.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



Barometer Rising
Hugh MacLennan

Although a work of fiction, it gives a great account of Halifax during World War I and the days leading up to, and after, the Halifax Explosion. I first read this book as a teen, and it's one of those rare books that I've read over and over again!

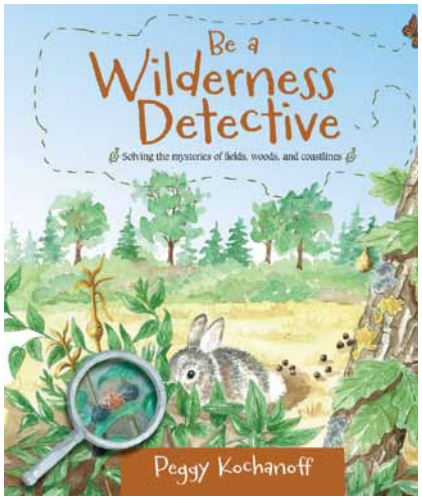
Reader

ADULT FICTION

"Everyone needs a refuge, a place where they can go when home feels claustrophobic and the society of others feels abrasive. For me, that place is the library. No matter how small it is, it never seems that way, for it's filled with doors that open into other vast rooms, other realms, and with amusing, intelligent, fascinating friends that you can pick up or put down at will and they won't be offended at all.

Some of my earliest memories are of village libraries: tearing into low shelves of children's books to find the treasures I hadn't already read, peering up at the mysterious tall stacks of books where the grown-ups stood to browse hungrily - and forget that we kids were even there. That's when I first knew that books had power, and I wanted a piece of it. I wanted to write books."

—Gary Blackwood

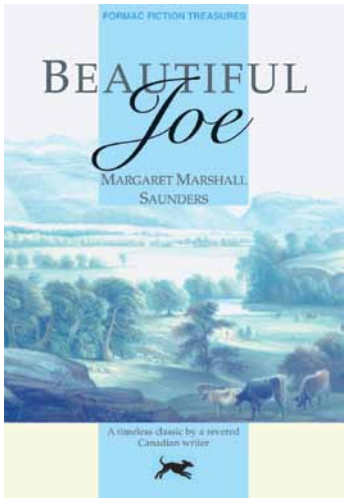


Be a Wilderness Detective
Peggy Kochanoff

This is the first book in a series of nature detective books that encourage children to go outside and understand their surroundings. With important information about the animals they might find and how to keep safe when around them, this book encourages a love for nature and a curiosity necessary for healthy development.

Reader

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION



Beautiful Joe
Margaret Marshall Saunders

Saunders, who grew up in Berwick, Nova Scotia, wrote this story about a dog named Joe after being inspired by the true story of an abused dog in Ontario. Initially winning a prize from the American Humane Education Society, *Beautiful Joe* went on to become the first Canadian book to sell more than one million copies, and it has helped create awareness about animal cruelty.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Beyond the Atlantic Roar: A Study of the Nova Scotia Scots
D. Campbell and R.A. MacLean

Published in 1974, this study of Nova Scotian Scottish immigrants can well be regarded as a companion text to the earlier classic *Highland Settler* by Charles Dunn. Well researched by the editors, D. Campbell and R.A. MacLean, it contains chapters on Scottish emigration and settlement, followed by detailed information on the inevitable changes that took place thereafter, especially in education, religion and politics. As such, this book is invaluable to researchers and ordinary readers alike; graphs and statistics provide a complex picture of the lives of many Scots and their descendants who settled in Nova Scotia over a period of close to 200 years.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

"Wherever I go, I know I'll feel at home in the local library."

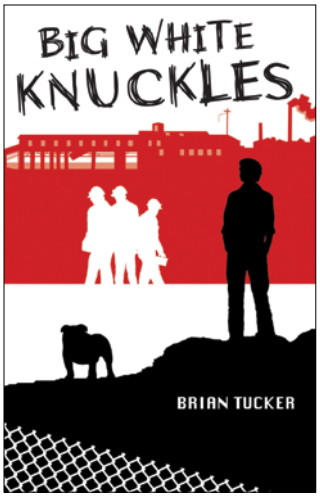
—*Angus MacCaull*

Bho na H-Innse Gall as Iomallaiche / From the Farthest Hebrides
Donald A. Fergusson

This book is an excellent distillation of the poetic culture of the Outer Hebrides, as imported, treasured, and enlarged upon by the early Gaelic settlers of Nova Scotia and their descendants. The editing and presentation are scholarly and attractive.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

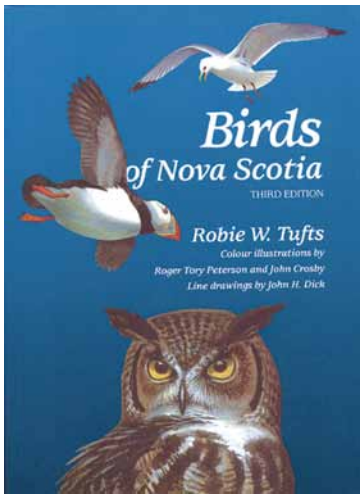


Big White Knuckles
Brian Tucker

A coming-of-age story set in a mining town in Cape Breton County. Honest and humorous. Also a good example of working class culture and values.

Reader

TEEN FICTION

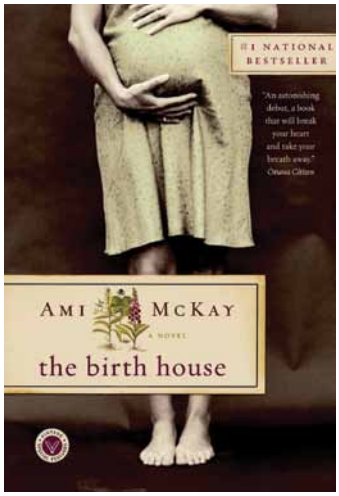


Birds of Nova Scotia
Robie W. Tufts

Colour illustrations and bird information for birders and non-birders to identify all the species of birds found in Nova Scotia.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

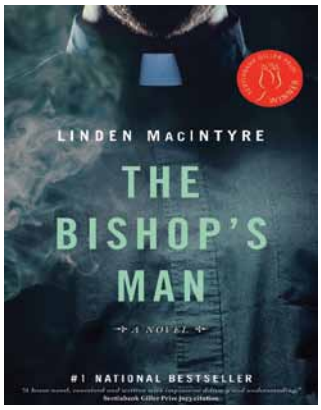


The Birth House
Ami McKay

I have read this book several times and lent it to numerous friends. It draws me in every time, back to a time and place in Nova Scotia when things were rapidly changing for women, when childbirth and family were a woman's "lot in life." Their struggles were real, and this book does a fantastic job of describing their "trials and tribulations."

Reader

ADULT FICTION



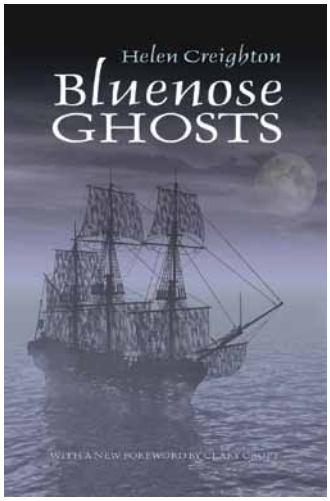
The Bishop's Man
Linden MacIntyre

The island of Cape Breton is another character in the book, and I relate so well with Duncan's rural life experience. It's an important and far-reaching story.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

DID YOU KNOW? One-third of Nova Scotians are active Public Library users.



Bluenose Ghosts
Helen Creighton

Helen Creighton is considered to be Canada's First Lady of Folklore. She collected thousands of songs and stories from each founding Maritime culture during her lifetime including "Farewell to Nova Scotia," long considered to be the Province's unofficial anthem, as just about every Nova Scotian can sing along wherever it pops up in music venues. This past spring of 2017, Dr. Creighton received the Folk Alliance International Lifetime Achievement Award. *Bluenose Ghosts* has inspired visual artists, performance artists, musicians, and even playwrights. To say that *Bluenose Ghosts* is one of Nova Scotia's most beloved books is an understatement.

Reader

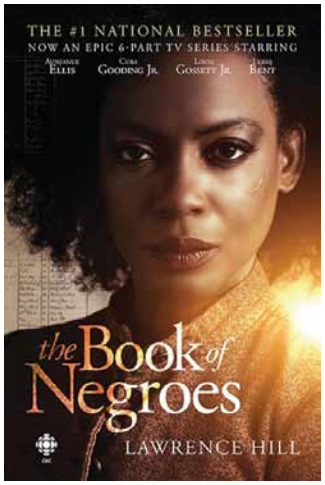
ADULT NONFICTION

A Bluenose Twelve Days of Christmas
Bruce Nunn and Doretta Groenendyk (Illustrator)

Why not? It's perfect. The Twelve days of Christmas all tied into our historically rich and beautiful province of Nova Scotia. So the question really isn't why should it be included, it's why shouldn't it be included!

Reader

CHILDREN'S FICTION



The Book of Negroes
Lawrence Hill

A powerful and eloquent book that tells an important story of our past.

Librarian

ADULT FICTION

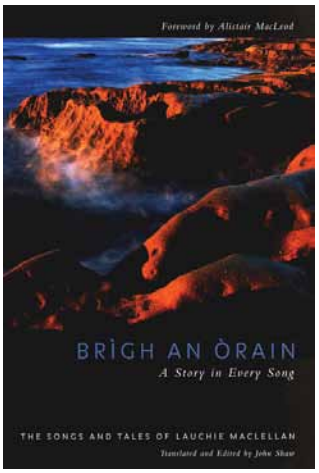
Borrowed Beauty
Maxine Tynes

Maxine Tynes' first book of poetry, *Borrowed Beauty* was published in 1987 to critical acclaim. It received the Milton Acorn People's Poetry Award. The book is an anthology of her many different poetical voices. In the opening piece, Tynes provides a striking description of her work: "My poems, my poetry, are like mirrors reflecting back in great or subtle beams and shafts of light and words and images that are womanly and Black and brown and tan and full of the joy and pride in femaleness and in Black womanhood that I am."

Publisher

ADULT POETRY

DID YOU KNOW? 68 Nova Scotia libraries are found in registered Canadian Historic Places.

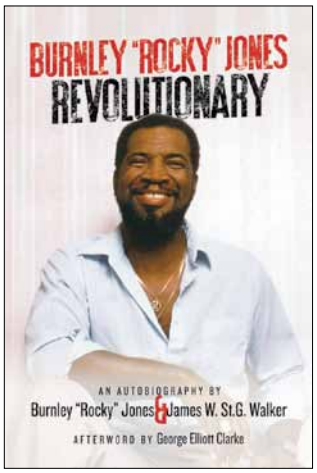


Brìgh an Òrain / A Story in Every Song: The Songs and Tales of Lauchie MacLellan
Lauchie MacLellan and John Shaw (Translator and Editor)

A penetrating look at the life and work of a twentieth-century Gaelic singer-storyteller from Nova Scotia, *Brìgh an Òrain* situates the inherited art of a fourth-generation Canadian Gael in its biographical, social, and historical contexts. It includes the words, music, and English translations for the songs plus an autobiography told in Lauchie MacLellan's usual entertaining style.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION



Burnley "Rocky" Jones Revolutionary: An Autobiography
Burnley "Rocky" Jones and James W. St.G. Walker

"The life, work and activism of Rocky Jones are central to African-Canadian history and the civil rights movement in Canada. Canadians lost a great soul, with the recent death of Rocky Jones, but his autobiography — co-written by James Walker, a close friend of Rocky Jones and one of our foremost writers about Black history in Canada — is a wonderful gift to the entire country. *Revolutionary* will soon be required reading for any person who seeks to understand the civil rights movement in Canada." — Lawrence Hill …Jones was tirelessly dedicated to student movements, peace activism, Black Power, anti-racism, women's liberation and human rights reform. He…brought the Black Panthers to Canada, taught at Dalhousie and founded his own law firm. This autobiography…illuminates the Black experience in Nova Scotia.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

Butterbox Babies: Baby Sales, Baby Deaths
Bette Cahill

An important look at one of the most high-profile scandals in Nova Scotia history.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

A Cape Breton Ceilidh
Allister MacGillivray and Beverly MacGillivray

This innovative book basically consists of edited interviews with prominent Cape Breton step-dancers or their descendants. It remains one of the very few books devoted to traditional dance (although that has been changing of late), and offers primary source material (interviews) in an accessible and engaging manner. It also includes some of the earliest information about piano accompanists.

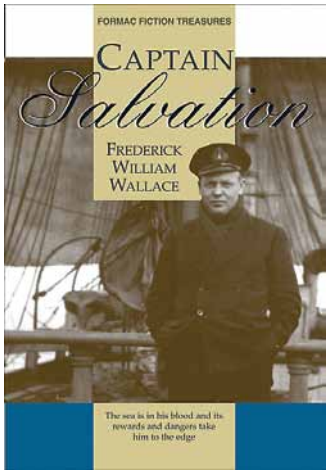
Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

DID YOU KNOW?

The first known library in Canada was in Port Royal, Nova Scotia, in 1606. The library belonged to Marc Lescarbot.

—Canadian Encyclopedia

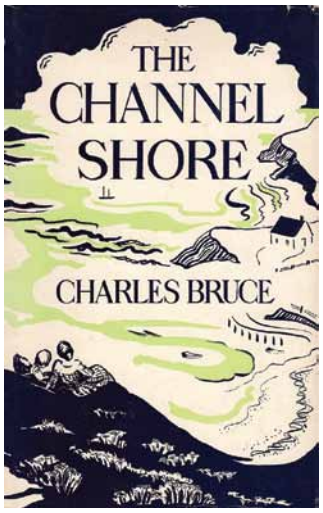


Captain Salvation
Frederick William Wallace

Captain Salvation is a little-known novel of Maritimers at sea. It is an exciting tale of a young reprobate who works his way up from able seaman to mate, skipper, and then a ship-owner. His strength and intelligence pull him through the violent life aboard ship. Finally, shipwrecked off Cape Horn, he has to face his demons. *Captain Salvation* was purchased by the Hearst Corporation and released as a silent film in 1927, directed by John S. Robertson.

Librarian

ADULT FICTION



The Channel Shore
Charles Bruce

It defines the culture, the history, the people of eastern Nova Scotia. As summarized by Thomas H. Raddall, "You don't read this book. You live it."

Reader

ADULT FICTION

Cinnamon Toast and the End of the World
Janet E. Cameron

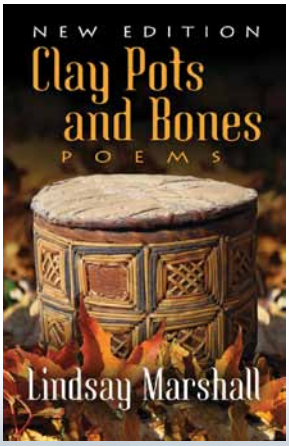
Set in the Annapolis Valley in 1987, 17-year-old Stephen Shulevitz must come to terms with being gay and falling in love with his best friend. While the general coming of age theme is not unique, the rural Nova Scotia setting makes this book a must for this list. This book appeals to both a youth and an adult audience.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

DID YOU KNOW?

The Margaret and John Savage First Book Award, named after the former Nova Scotia Premier and his wife, recognizes the best first book by an Atlantic writer.

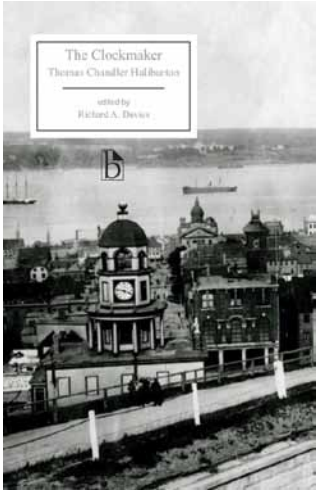


Clay Pots and Bones: Poems
Lindsay Marshall

The poetry of *Clay Pots and Bones* is Lindsay Marshall's way of telling stories, of speaking with others about what things that matter to him. His heritage. His people. His life as a Mi'kmaw. For the reader, *Clay Pots and Bones* is a colourful journey from early days, when the People of the Dawn understood, interacted with and roamed the land freely, to the turbulent present and the uncertain future where Marshall envisions a rebirth of the Mi'kmaq.

Publisher

ADULT POETRY

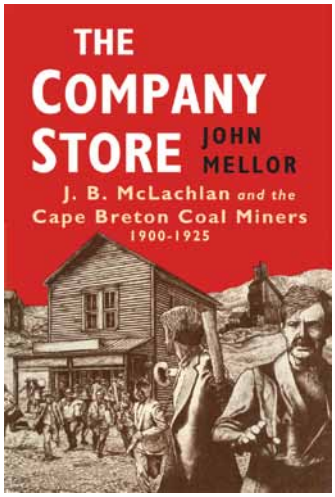


The Clockmaker
Thomas Chandler Haliburton

This story is narrated by an English gentleman known only as "The Squire," who is making a tour of the colony on horseback in 1836. Throughout the book Sam Slick pontificates on any and all problems encountered by Nova Scotians. It is disturbing, as on full display are attitudes of prejudice and discrimination, violence toward women, acceptance of slavery, and lack of universal suffrage that were accepted at the time of writing.

Librarian

ADULT FICTION

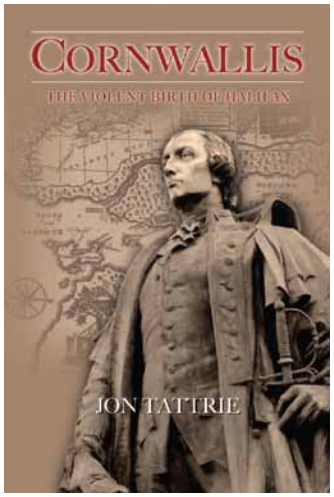


The Company Store: J.B. McLachlan and the Cape Breton Coal Miners, 1900–1925
John Mellor

This book sheds light on the terrible circumstances of the early coal miners in Cape Breton.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

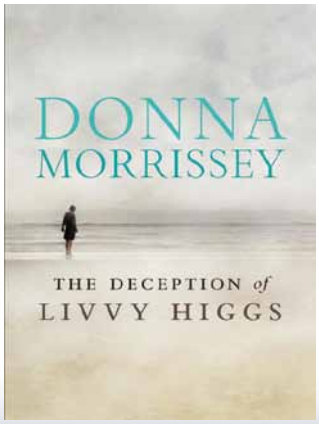


Cornwallis: The Violent Birth of Halifax
Jon Tattrie

This book details the history of early Halifax and Edward Cornwallis. An important read for anyone interested in how Halifax came to be, and colonization in Nova Scotia.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



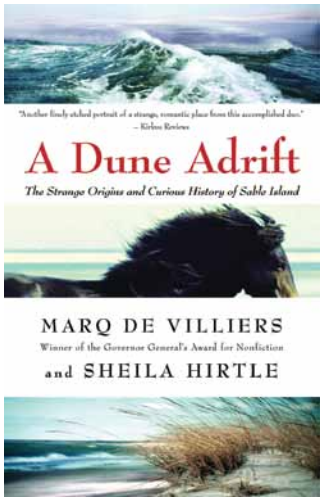
The Deception of Livvy Higgs
Donna Morrissey

One Book Nova Scotia 2016 Selection

For two traumatic days, Livvy Higgs is besieged by a series of small heart attacks while the ghost of her younger self leads her back through a past devastated by lies and secrets. The story opens in Halifax in 2009, travels back to the French Shore of Newfoundland during the mid-thirties and the heyday of the Maritime shipping industry, makes its way to war torn Halifax during the battle of the Atlantic in World War II, then leaps ahead to the bedside of the elder Livvy…Tending to Livvy during her illness is her young next-door neighbour, Gen, a single mother, social-work student, and part-time drug dealer. Overnight, a violent scene embroils the two in each other's lives in a manner that will entwine them forever. In *The Deception of Livvy Higgs*, the inimitable Morrissey has written a powerful tale, the *Stone Angel* of the East Coast.

Publisher

ADULT FICTION



A Dune Adrift: The Strange Origins and Curious History of Sable Island
Marq De Villiers and Sheila Hirtle

If you are interested in the natural world and particularly, some of its natural oddities, here is a good book for you to read. This is an easy-to-read, well-documented book about a naturally strange island off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Librarian

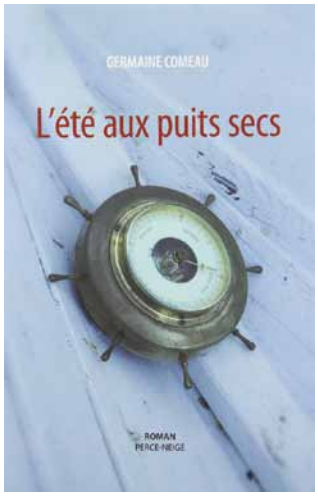
ADULT NONFICTION

The Education of Everett Richardson: The Nova Scotia Fishermen's Strike, 1970–71
Silver Donald Cameron

Named as one of Atlantic Canada's 100 Greatest Books, Cameron writes with flair and style, and this short, engaging text amuses as well as educates. This is essential reading regarding workers' rights, the Labour Movement, the Atlantic fishing industry, and the socio-economic realities of rural Nova Scotia.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

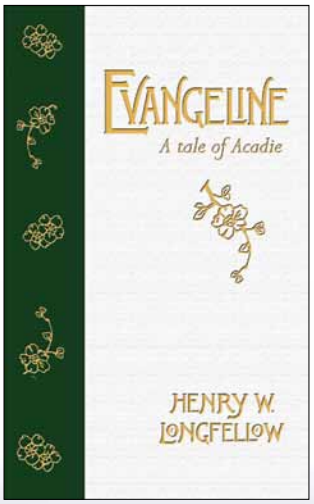


L'été aux puits secs
Germaine Comeau

Une sècheresse bouscule soudainement la tranquillité quotidienne d'une jeune famille du sud-ouest de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Le destin de Janice, de Pierre et des gens de leur entourage prend forme sur le fil tranchant d'une tension minutieusement contrôlée…Pointés vers l'ouest, le vent dans le visage, Pierre et Janice aperçurent, derrière la fumée noire du dépotoir, une fumée grise, plus propre, plus dense, qui s'élevait plus haut. — J'me demande quoi ce qui brule, dit Pierre en ralentissant le moteur du bateau aux environs de la cloche de l'Anse qui tintait lourdement malgré le calme de l'eau. — C'est pas juste le dépotoir. — Non, ça se trouve en arrière. C'était difficile, de l'angle où ils se trouvaient, d'estimer la perspective exacte. — C'est peut-être rien, dit Janice. Mais ils sentaient bien, tous les deux, que la sècheresse de l'été ajoutait à la phrase de Janice une lourdeur d'inquiétude. Et soudain, tout éclata.

Publisher

ADULT FICTION

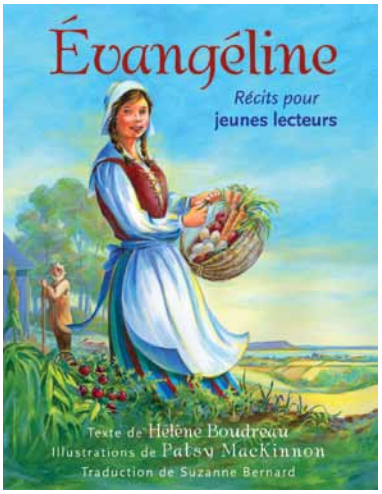


Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

An epic poem illustrating the day-to-day life of Acadians during the deportation. Lots of children today don't know the details of how the English forcibly evicted French settlers off their land and families were separated or torn apart. A tragic and important part of our history.

Reader

ADULT POETRY

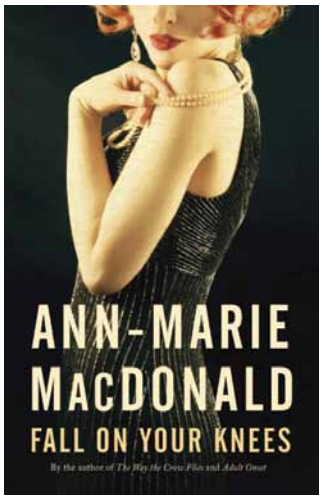


Évangéline: Récits pour jeunes lecteurs
Hélène Boudreau and Patsy MacKinnon (Illustrator)

Ce livre permet à nos jeunes lecteurs et lectrices acadien de mieux se familiariser avec une culture mourante. L'auteure, Hélène Boudreau, a su bien captivé l'histoire classique d'amour d'Évangéline et Gabriel. Que de mieux que d'asseoir avec son enfant et partager cette belle histoire historique! Ce livre est un vrai cadeau, une vraie perle!

Reader

CHILDREN'S FICTION

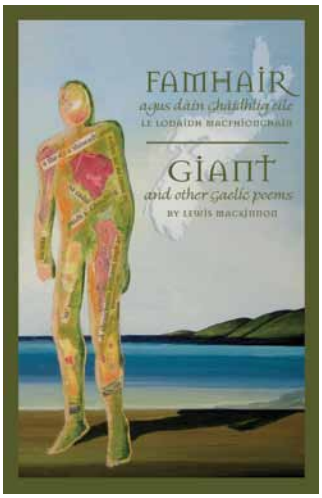


Fall on Your Knees
Ann-Marie MacDonald

This tale of a family from Cape Breton examines secrets, racism, birth, death, attempted murder, religion, war, love, and miracles in the story of four sisters. Following the events in the first half of the 20th century, the fiction ranges from heart-breaking and tragic to hilariously funny. I think most Canadians can relate to the experiences and intimate portrayals of the richly developed characters and familial bonds.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

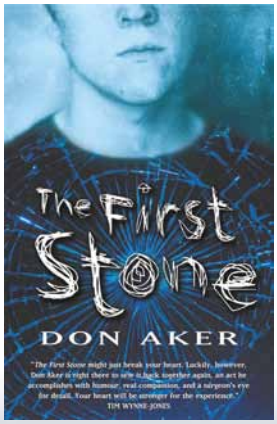


Famhair: Agus Dàin Ghàidhlig Eile / Giant: And Other Gaelic Poems
Lewis MacKinnon

This is MacKinnon's first collection of Gaelic poetry. The poems contributed to the decision to award him with the Scottish Bardic Crown, making him the first non-Scottish official bard (poet laureate) of the Royal National Mòd.

Librarian

ADULT POETRY



The First Stone
Don Aker

In this award-winning novel, Reef, who is grieving and angry, throws a stone from an overpass and changes not only his own life, but also that of the driver of the car he hits. Aker is a popular high school teacher, who understands the teens he writes about in a way that makes his writing, and this book in particular, stand out and be noticed.

Librarian

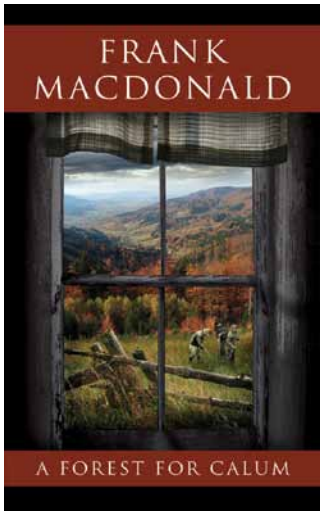
TEEN FICTION

The "Foreign Protestants" and the Settlement of Nova Scotia: The History of a Piece of Arrested British Colonial Policy in the Eighteenth Century
Winthrop Pickard Bell

This extremely well-researched book recounts the European settlement of Nova Scotia and in particular, Lunenburg County in the 1750s. It gives a detailed account of how they got here and the day-to-day conditions they suffered in order to survive and thrive. The great strength of the book is the historical record of the everyday experience of settlers.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



A Forest for Calum
Frank Macdonald

As someone who wasn't born in Nova Scotia, I loved that this book gave me the context for Nova Scotians' attachment to their Gaelic roots. I couldn't put down this story that danced me through the lives of people rooted in a Gaelic culture, which they were at risk of losing. And so many of the themes of growing up in small towns resonated: the closeness of family; the ability of hard-working people to let go and love the moment; the love of music that is bred into Nova Scotians. The art of the Nova Scotian storyteller is fully realized in Macdonald's work.

Reader

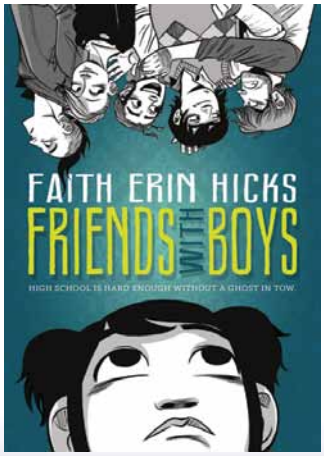
ADULT FICTION

Forest Life in Acadie: Sketches of Sport and Natural History in the Lower Provinces of the Canadian Dominion
Campbell Hardy

The author was a British Military officer stationed in Halifax for over 15 years. Published in 1869, the book recounts hunting trips and adventures Hardy experienced travelling through the forests of Nova Scotia with local Mi'kmaq as his guides. His stories and drawings began a long tradition of Nova Scotia as an outdoor-experience tourist destination. His work is also important because it helped to make the Mi'kmaq famous for their expertise in hunting, fishing and forest life.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

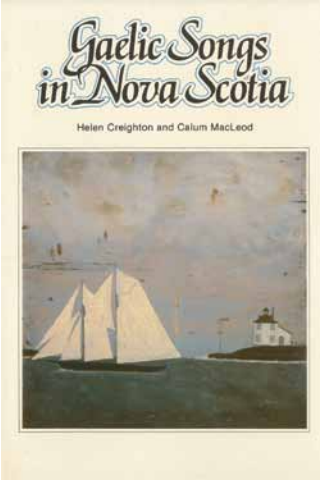


Friends with Boys
Faith Erin Hicks

Hicks writes consistently great, funny, and thought-provoking material. In *Friends with Boys* she gives the reader a semi-autobiographical novel about a girl who was homeschooled until high school. It explores family relationships, bullying, and fitting in. It also features a musical about zombies and a ghost. Although set in a fictional town, plenty of the landmarks are recognizably Halifax.

Reader

TEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL

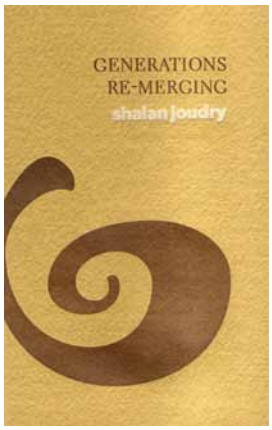


Gaelic Songs in Nova Scotia
Helen Creighton and Calum MacLeod

This book seems to be on every Gaelic speaker's bookshelf.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



Generations Re-merging
Shalan Joudry

Each generation must make their own / journey through a thick terrain, starts *Generations Re-merging*, a collection of poems which explores the complex tangle of intergenerational relationships and cultural issues encountered by a Mi'kmaw woman in the modern context, where every moment / is the loss of something. Alert to the fragility of community and culture, and to the pervasive threats against the natural and social environments, which have traditionally fostered them, Shalan Joudry writes with lucidity of the challenge of confronting these global issues personally on her home ground, and of honouring the hope of past generations by renewing it in the present.

Publisher

ADULT POETRY

Geographique et Historique des Costes de L'Amerique Septentrionale: Avec l'Histoire naturelle du Païs
Nicolas Denys

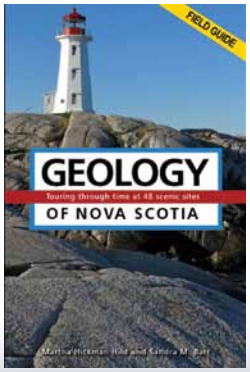
Although it covers a lot of territory, this is one of the earliest books to chronicle life in what would become Nova Scotia. Of particular interest are the author's descriptions of life among the Mi'kmaq people with whom he spent considerable time.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1969, the School of Library Service, now called the School of Information Management, was created at Dalhousie University.

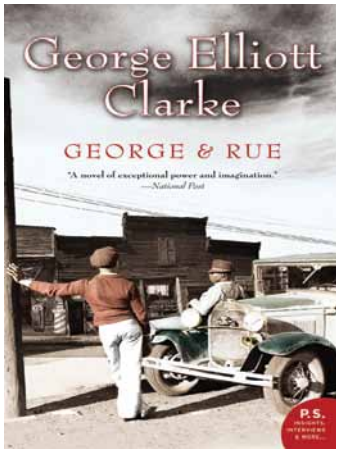


Geology of Nova Scotia Field Guide: Touring Through Time at 48 Scenic Sites
Martha Hickman Hild and Sandra M. Barr

Nova Scotia has a geological history that is both unique and impressive. This book is a practical, well-organized guide to interesting and beautiful parts of the province, from the ancient rocks in the Cape Breton Highlands to the youngest formations in the southern part of the province. This title contains detailed maps, descriptions and expert advice for those interested in finding and exploring the rocks and outcrops at 48 sites across Nova Scotia. Sandra Barr is a long-time geology professor at Acadia University, and Martha Hickman Hild has written extensively about geology. A great field guide for those interested in exploring our province's great outdoors.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

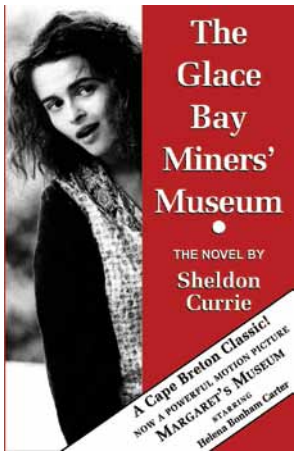


George and Rue
George Elliott Clarke

The novel is based on the true story of George and Rufus Hamilton, two Black Canadian brothers who grew up in Nova Scotia and murdered a taxicab driver in Barker's Point, New Brunswick in 1949. Later the same year, both of the brothers were convicted of murder and executed. They were the last public hanging in New Brunswick. Clarke's mother was the Hamilton brothers' cousin. He uses both historical record and re-imagining to recount the brothers' lives and to seek understanding of what led them to commit murder. *George and Rue* is an instructive insight into the history of Canada's multi-ethnic society. Clarke does more than tell the story of a murder by telling of the underlying situations and experiences that lead to the event and how the effects of racism and poverty are passed on from generation to generation.

Librarian

ADULT FICTION

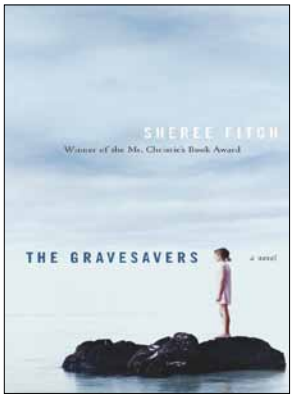


The Glace Bay Miners' Museum
Sheldon Currie

What other book captures the essence of coal mining communities and the circumstances of the families of coal miners? One that is easy enough for anyone to read? Made into a movie? And how many other writers have encouraged as many aspiring writers as has Sheldon Currie? Or made it possible — even desirable — in Nova Scotia to write about ourselves?

Reader

ADULT FICTION

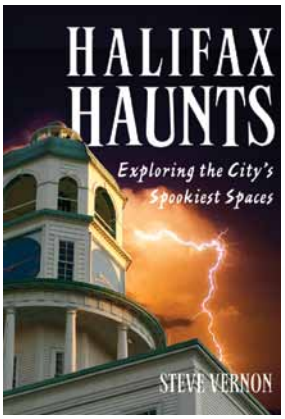


The Gravesavers
Sheree Fitch

A lovely middle school historical novel set on the shores of Nova Scotia's Atlantic Ocean. It is a mystery and a family saga. It presents the little known story of the sinking and rescue of the SS *Atlantic* in Terence Bay. Sheree Fitch captures the heart of our land and our people. It is a timeless story for every generation.

Reader

CHILDREN'S FICTION

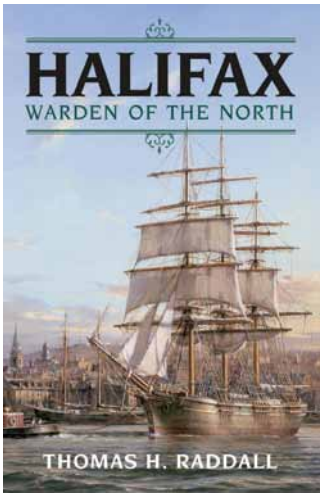


Halifax Haunts: Exploring the City's Spookiest Spaces
Steve Vernon

Ghost stories and history — how can you go wrong?

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

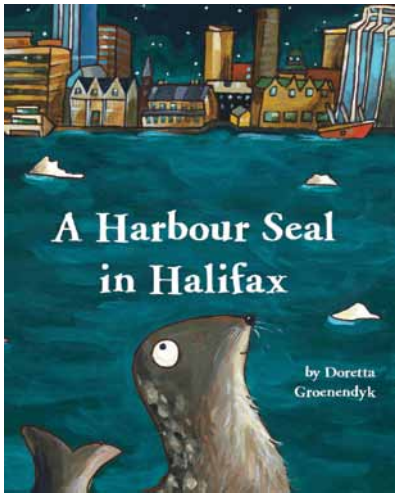


Halifax, Warden of the North
Thomas H. Raddall

One of Canada's most popular novelists, Thomas Raddall was a three-time winner of the Governor General Award (one time for fiction and two times for non-fiction). *Halifax, Warden of the North* has been one of the best-known and most influential chronicles of Halifax since it first hit the shelves.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



A Harbour Seal in Halifax
Doretta Groenendyk

Based on a true story, it shows an interesting side of Halifax.

Reader

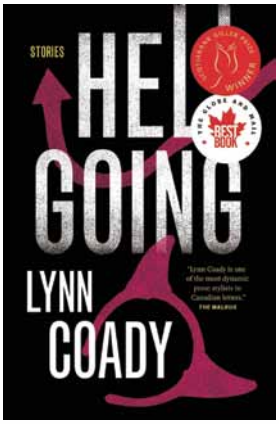
CHILDREN'S FICTION

Hark! A Vagrant
Kate Beaton

A delightful romp through history and literature via comic strips.

Librarian

ADULT GRAPHIC NOVEL

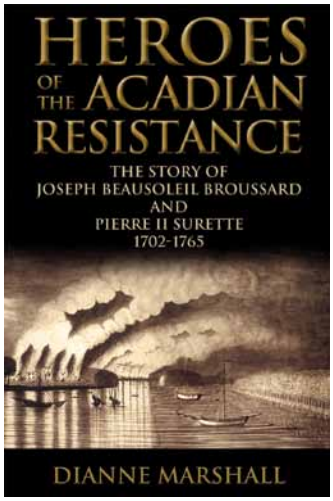


Hellgoing
Lynn Coady

Winner of the 2013 Scotiabank Giller Prize. Shortlisted for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Selected as an Amazon.ca Best Book and for The Globe's Top 10 Books of 2013. With astonishing range and depth, Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Lynn Coady gives us nine unforgettable new stories, each one of them grabbing our attention from the first line and resonating long after the last…Equally adept at capturing the foibles and obsessions of men and of women, compassionate in her humour yet never missing an opportunity to make her characters squirm, fascinated as much by faithlessness as by faith, Lynn Coady is quite possibly the writer who best captures what it is to be human at this particular moment in our history.

Publisher

ADULT FICTION



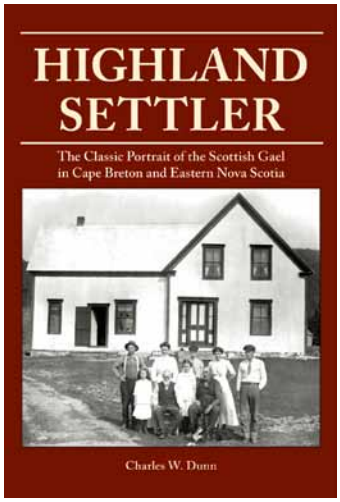
Heroes of the Acadian Resistance: The Story of Joseph Beausoleil Broussard and Pierre II Surette, 1702–1765
Dianne Marshall

Heroes of the Acadian Resistance tells the unique and little-known story of the young men who led an Acadian resistance in 18th-century Nova Scotia…Their battle was against a form of ethnic cleansing that saw British soldiers burn every remnant of the Acadian community – homes, barns and churches.

The French government used missionary priests as government agents to generate resistance amongst Mi'kmaq and Acadian Catholics in an attempt to regain Nova Scotia from British domination. Their efforts were welcomed by some Acadians who had their own reasons for resisting British rule. The guerilla campaign which ensued was well underway before the deportation, and continued after the majority of Acadians had been captured and forcibly exiled. This book offers a fresh perspective on the tragic events of the Acadian expulsion from 18th-century Nova Scotia.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION



Highland Settler: The Classic Portrait of the Scottish Gael in Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia
Charles W. Dunn

Dunn was a Harvard Celticist; his sympathetic description of Gaelic cultural life in Cape Breton remains a key book in the study of the history of Gaels provincially.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

Histoire de la Nouvelle-France
Marc Lescarbot

Marc Lescarbot (1570–1642) was a French author, adventurer, and lawyer who accompanied other well-known explorers to Port Royal in 1606-1607. He recorded his observations in his work *Histoire de la Nouvelle-France*, describing the geography of Acadia, the experience of the colonists and traders, and most importantly the first contacts, customs, and way of life of the Mi'kmaq people. While a work of its time, Lescarbot's humanist tendencies allowed him to have great respect for the first people of this land we now call Nova Scotia.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

Histoire des Acadiens
Bona Arsenault

De la fondation de Port-Royal en 1604 jusqu'au rayonnement actuel de la culture acadienne, en passant par la Déportation des Acadiens en 1755, l'histoire de l'Acadie est riche en péripéties de toutes sortes. Historien, généalogiste et homme politique, Bona Arsenault, mort en 1993, a consacré plus de quarante années à ce sujet. D'abord parue en 1965 et plusieurs fois rééditée depuis, Histoire des Acadiens fait figure de texte défricheur dans le domaine. Cette toute nouvelle édition mise à jour par l'historien Pascal Alain, permet d'aborder le fait acadien dans ses multiples aspects — social, politique, culturel, géographique, linguistique. L'ensemble constitue une excellente introduction à l'histoire acadienne, mais aussi à l'Acadie contemporaine, montrée dans toute sa diversité.

Publisher

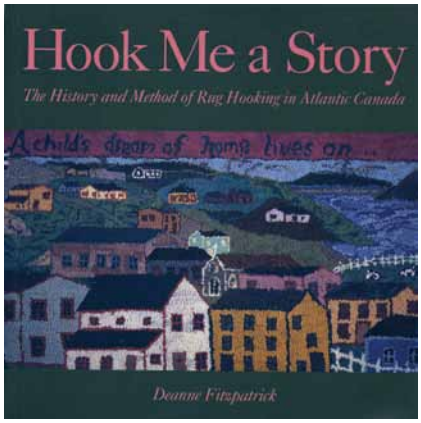
ADULT NONFICTION

History of Halifax City
Thomas Beamish Akins

This is an historic account of the making of our beautiful city by Dr. T.B. Akins and others. It depicts the raw hardships and struggles of early settlers that today we tend to forget, and take advantage of, without a second thought as to how we grew as a city, a province and a nation, so wonderful as it was and is, and continues to be. I am a 10th generation of immigrants who came to this country from Germany in 1751. A 12-year-old boy named Adam Heeb (original spelling) with his mother and step-father, landed in Halifax, and then went on to Bridgewater in 1753 where the Hebbs still live and flourish. In doing research on the Hebb family, it was easy to see just how incredibly hard it was to clear land and settle in a harsh and hostile environment. Any piece of history is invaluable to understanding the strength and endurance, and tolerance of people coming together for the good of our country and each other. I am so proud to be a Canadian.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

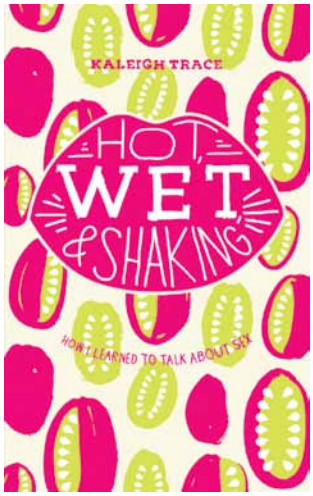


Hook Me a Story: The History and Method of Rug Hooking in Atlantic Canada
Deanne Fitzpatrick

A much-needed source book for anyone wanting to know the history and the craft of rug hooking. Includes illustrations of techniques and materials and methods. This book is a tribute to those who kept the craft alive over the years.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

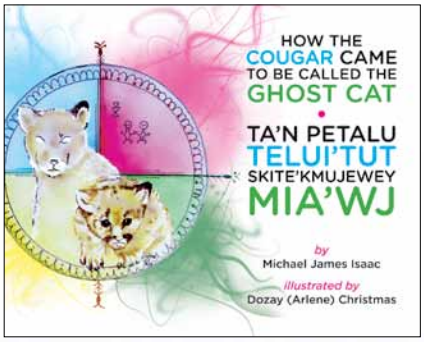


Hot, Wet, and Shaking: How I Learned to Talk About Sex
Kaleigh Trace

This is a sex book. It's a book about having sex by yourself, with one person, or with twenty people if everyone is down…Kaleigh Trace — disabled, queer, sex educator — chronicles her journey from ignorance to bliss as she shamelessly discusses her sexual exploits, bodily negotiations and attempts at adulthood, sparing none of the details and assuming you are not polite company. Recommended by staff at Venus Envy in Halifax.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

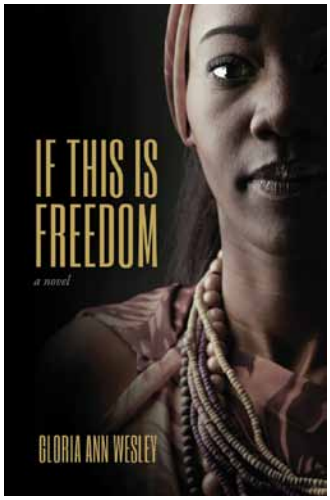


How the Cougar Came to be Called the Ghost Cat / Ta'n Petalu Telui'tut Skite'kmujewey Mia'wj
Michael James Isaac and Dozay (Arlene) Christmas (Illustrator)

The story of a young cougar named Ajig, who leaves home only to find that other animals are afraid of him. To make friends he agrees to stop behaving like a cougar, but when he returns home, he is no longer welcome. Caught between two worlds, Ajig becomes a "ghost cat." A note by the author states, "The ghost cat story is one which I have lived… I can remember having to give up parts of who I was so that I would be accepted in the Euro-Canadian school system." This book is written in both English and Mi'kmaw.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION



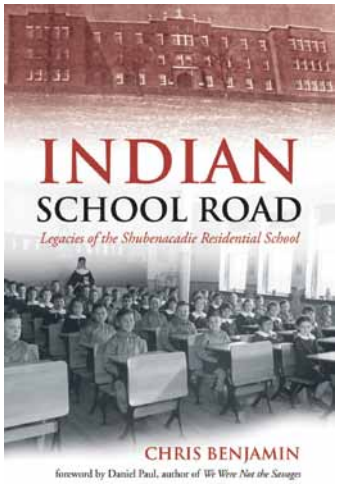
If This Is Freedom
Gloria Ann Wesley

If This Is Freedom is about a family of Black Loyalists who came from the US in 1783 to make their new home in Birchtown, Nova Scotia. They meet with nothing but hardship, frustration and discrimination. This is an important story to tell as part of the history of our province.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

One Book NOVA SCOTIA 2017 Selection

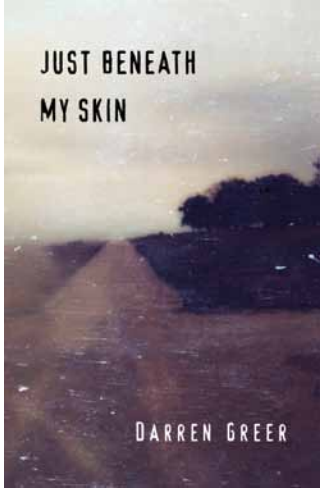


Indian School Road: Legacies of the Shubenacadie Residential School
Chris Benjamin

This book includes true Nova Scotian stories that appear nowhere else in print. It talks about an important segment of our history about which every citizen should know. It's very well-written and excruciatingly researched. A must-read for every history or social studies student.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



Just Beneath My Skin
Darren Greer

Just Beneath My Skin begins with a turning point in the lives of the main characters, Jake and Nathan, as Jake returns home to a small community in Nova Scotia to reclaim the son he left behind. As if that isn't complicated enough, add poverty, alcoholism, and emotionally unstable friends and you have quite the scene. A novel that explores complex human emotions in a concise and unrelenting style.

Librarian

ADULT FICTION

One Book NOVA SCOTIA 2015 Selection

"I owe my writing career to the vibrant libraries of rural Nova Scotia. My mother took me every week when I was a child and here I discovered the magic of books, stories and words. I take my own children to these same libraries — remarkable spaces fostering community, creativity and dreams in a new generation."

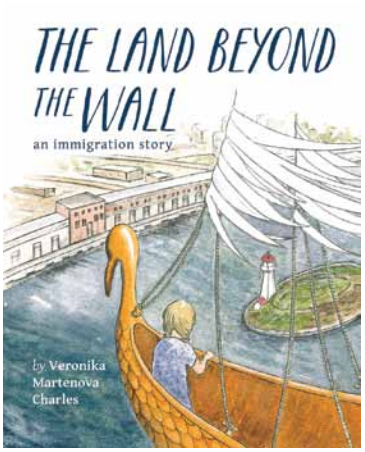
—Christy Ann Conlin

Justice Denied: The Law versus Donald Marshall
Michael Harris

A tough read, *Justice Denied* takes a close look at the circumstances surrounding the wrongful imprisonment of Marshall for the murder of Sandy Seale. It holds up a mirror to the racism in Nova Scotia that led to one of the most famous injustices in Canadian history.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

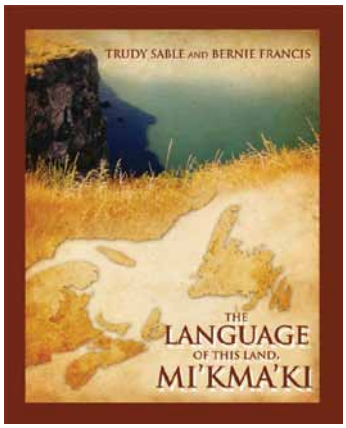


The Land Beyond the Wall: An Immigration Story
Veronika Martenova Charles

This is an important story about immigration into Nova Scotia and the experience of a young girl who has no understanding of the English language, but uses her love of art to communicate with the people around her. She lands at Pier 21, explores the Public Gardens, and learns what it's like to be free.

Reader

CHILDREN'S FICTION

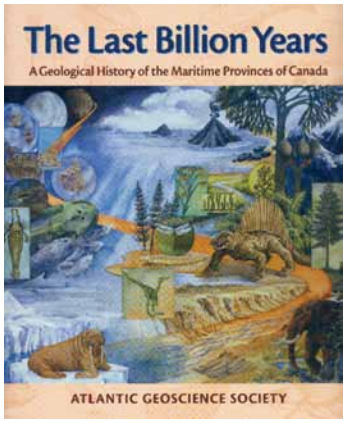


The Language of this Land, Mi'kma'ki
Trudy Sable and Bernie Francis

Many times that researchers or other interested people come to our communities, they try to understand our culture and its many expressions, but they often cannot grasp the deep cultural differences in how Mi'kmaq conceptualize, express, and relate to their world. Our book gives people a basic knowledge of the meaning and world view behind the songs, dances, and stories, which are teachings of how Mi'kmaq relate to their landscape, including the heavens. It also provides a quantum leap in illustrating the differences between the Mi'kmaw and English languages, which no one has ever done before. Because we recognized this had not been done, we took the opportunity to write the book, and provide a readable springboard for people to discover more.

Authors

ADULT NONFICTION

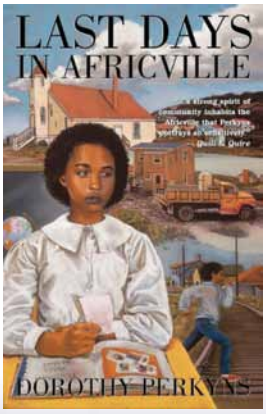


The Last Billion Years: A Geological History of the Maritime Provinces of Canada
Atlantic Geoscience Society

The rocks and fossils…tell a fascinating story of the last billion years. This story, discovered by geologists over the last 200 years, has yielded many surprises: Halifax and southern Nova Scotia were once attached to Africa and situated in the southern hemisphere; our coal deposits were formed in tropical rain forests over 300 million years ago, long before the Atlantic Ocean existed; Bras d'Or Lake, now an inland sea, and the Bedford Basin, now the inner part of Halifax Harbour, were once freshwater lakes. Its importance is as the first contemporary book written for the general reader on the geological history of the Maritime Provinces.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION



Last Days in Africville
Dorothy Perkyns

This book is set in the mid-1960s when the city of Halifax relocated the residents of a 100-year-old Black community and razed Africville in the name of urban renewal. These churning events are explored through the life of twelve-year-old Selina, who deals with being the only African Nova Scotian in her class as well as with losing her community and home.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Legends of the Micmacs
Silas T. Rand

Legends of the Micmacs, published originally in 1894, is important because it is one of the earliest books to demonstrate the creativity and value of Mi'kmaq spiritual beliefs and legends. Illustrating the complexity of the Mi'kmaq culture through his writing was the most influential of Rand's efforts to help the Mi'kmaq. The author's work as a Baptist missionary was largely unsuccessful, but the esteem in which he held Mi'kmaq intelligence and his devotion to studying their language are remarkable examples during a time when the Mi'kmaq were nearly exterminated by societal and governmental mistreatment.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

Letters from Nova Scotia: Comprising Sketches of a Young Country
William Scarth Moorsom

The book is an important historical work because it provides detailed observations on the people, climate, geography and economic activity of Nova Scotia during the 1820s. Moorsom, a military officer, was stationed here from 1826–1831 and travelled widely during that time. Along with capturing his experiences, written in the form of letters to friends in England, he also sketched key sites that were included as plates in the book. At the time of publication there was controversy because of the author's unflattering depictions of some aspects of Nova Scotia life. Joe Howe defended the book by saying that it had helped to publicize the colony in England. For historical researchers it provides invaluable knowledge of Nova Scotia on the eve of Confederation.

Librarian

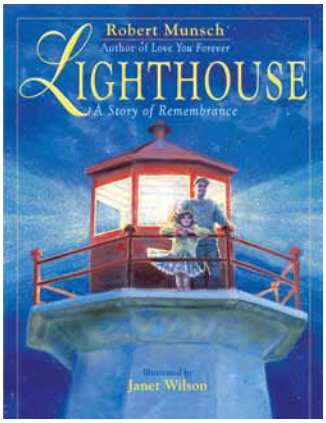
ADULT NONFICTION

Life with Billy
Brian Vallée

Jane Hurshman's struggle and incredible story of survival and fight changed the way a lot of people viewed domestic abuse not only locally, but nationally.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



Lighthouse: A Story of Remembrance
Robert Munsch and Janet Wilson (Illustrator)

Although not a Nova Scotian author, Munsch is a beloved author of Canadian children's books. The lighthouse depicted in the story is based on the Cape George Lighthouse in Antigonish County. It was through the Antigonish Library that Munsch was able to track down Sarah, the child who inspired the story.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION

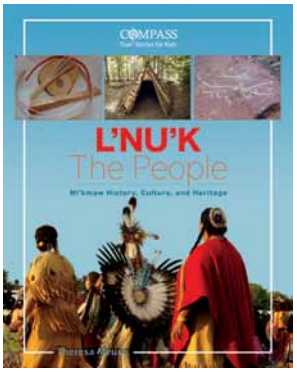
DID YOU KNOW? There are 2.1 million holdings in Nova Scotia Public Libraries.
—NS Public Library Data Collection 2016/2017

A Little Thing I Tied Myself: Stories of Atlantic Canadian Fly Tiers
Don MacLean

Fly fishing for trout and salmon has been woven into the fabric of the province since the earliest days. *A Little Thing I Tied Myself* explores past and present fly tiers, and gives a delightful history of the whole sport concentrating on local fly patterns.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

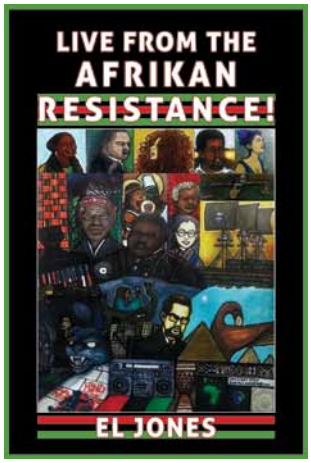


L'Nu'k / The People: Mi'kmaw History, Culture, and Heritage
Theresa Meuse

This nonfiction children's book is written from an Indigenous perspective. Covering a vast scope (pre-settler lifestyle, colonization, the Indian Act, residential schools, traditional spirituality, and modern Mi'kmaq communities), this book is ideal for readers and educators. There is an unfortunate knowledge gap that persists in the general public. This highly visual overview covers the basics of a rich culture, and shares with all readers — both Indigenous and non — the important culture that informs our collective history. Told by a member of the community it's describing, this short, simple, "basics" book is essential on a reading list celebrating our country!

Reader

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

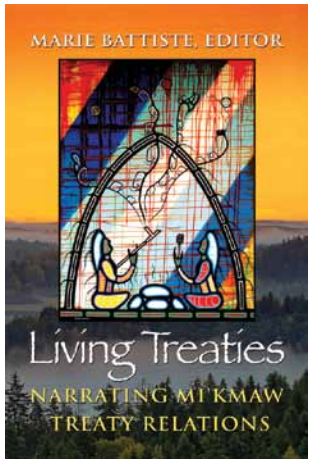


Live from the Afrikan Resistance!
El Jones

Live from the Afrikan Resistance! is the first collection of spoken word poetry by Halifax's fifth Poet Laureate, El Jones. These poems speak of community and struggle. They are grounded in the political culture of African Nova Scotia and inherit the styles and substances of hip-hop, dub and calypso's political commentary. They engage historical themes and figures and analyse contemporary issues — racism, environmental racism, poverty and violence — as well as confront the realities of life as a Black woman. The voice is urgent, uncompromising and passionate in its advocacy and demands. One of Canada's most controversial spoken word artists, El Jones writes to educate, to move communities to action and to demonstrate the possibilities of resistance and empowerment. Gathered from seven years of performances, these poems represent the tradition of the prophetic voice in Black Nova Scotia.

Publisher

ADULT POETRY



Living Treaties: Narrating Mi'kmaw Treaty Relations
Marie Battiste

Living Treaties aims to reveal another side of the treaties and their histories, focusing on stories from contemporary perspectives, both Mi'kmaw and their non-Mi'kmaw allies. The book highlights the voices of a new generation of Indigenous lawyers and academics who have made their life choices with credentials solidly in hand in order to pursue social and cognitive justice for their families and their people. Their mission: to enliven the treaties out of the caverns of the public archives, to bring them back to life and to justice as part of the supreme law of Canada; and to use them to mobilize the Mi'kmaw restoration and renaissance that seeks to reaffirm, restore and rebuild Mi'kmaw identity, consciousness, knowledge and heritages, as well as their rightful connections to their land and ecologies.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

Louisbourg: From its Foundation to its Fall, 1713–1758
J.S. McLennan

The definitive history of the fortress, this book has probably been read by every student of Nova Scotia history. Nearly 100 years old, it still is the go-to book for that time and place.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

The Mapmaker's Eye: Nova Scotia Through Early Maps
Joan Dawson

In this book the author has taken a unique approach to old maps of Nova Scotia made between the arrival of the first explorers and the year 1800…she takes a broader view and interprets them in terms of what they can tell us about the development of the Nova Scotian culture and industrial landscape, and about people's changing perceptions of it. Seventy maps illustrate the themes of mapmaking, fishing, farming, mining and forestry, forts and harbours, and settlement and transportation. Joan Dawson lets us see through the eyes of the people who made the maps, such things as the disputed fishery at Canso, the rival Chignecto forts and a spy's report on Halifax.

Publisher

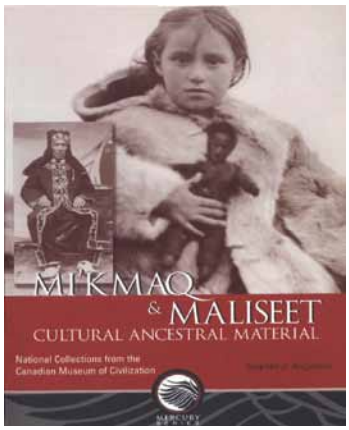
ADULT NONFICTION

Masters of Their Own Destiny: The Story of the Antigonish Movement of Adult Education Through Economic Cooperation
Moses M. Coady

I think we can all learn from the work of the Antigonish Movement, the 20th-century vision that helped in the grassroots development of rural Nova Scotia. If we could do it then, we can do it now.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



Mi'kmaq & Maliseet Cultural Ancestral Material: National Collections from the Canadian Museum of Civilization
Stephen J. Augustine

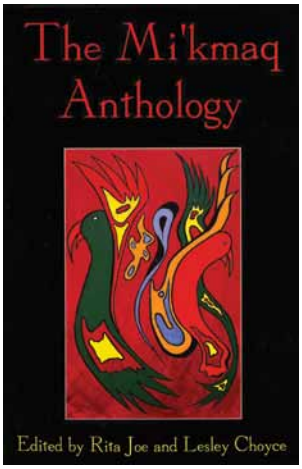
Drawing on artifacts held in the collections of the Canadian Museum of History, this book provides a fascinating look at the richness of Mi'kmaq and Maliseet cultural practice, technological ingenuity and artistic expression.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

DID YOU KNOW? 344,000 people attended programs at Nova Scotia Public Libraries.

—NS Public Library Data Collection 2016/2017



The Mi'kmaq Anthology
Rita Joe and Lesley Choyce

A varied and spiritual collection of work by the Mi'kmaq writers of Atlantic Canada. Both young and old stories and storytellers combine talents to produce short stories, poetry, and personal essays.

Publisher

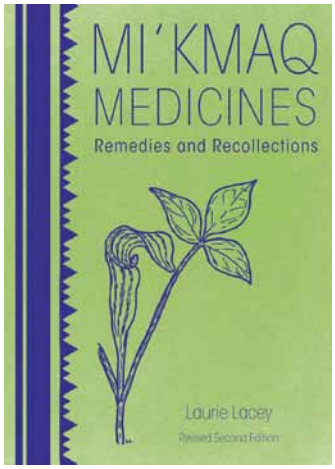
ADULT NONFICTION

Mi'kmawe'l Tan Teli-kina'muemk: Teaching about the Mi'kmaq
Tim Bernard, Leah Morine Rosenmeier and Sharon L. Farrell, editors (The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Truro, Nova Scotia)

The resource was developed by a distinguished group of Mi'kmaq educators. It was designed for anyone who wants to teach Mi'kmaw history, culture and knowledge. Through the stories and knowledge of Mi'kmaw Elders, educators, and other experts, this volume shares content and teaching strategies for three subject areas, Welo'ltimk – Healing, Kejitasimkewey Kiskuk – Contemporary Issues, and Netukulimk – Economic, Social, and Political Life, for grades primary to nine. Although it is not currently well-known, nor is it something the general public would normally read, it has been included in the list because of its potential to be so influential. By guiding the education of our children, it will help to ensure all Nova Scotians understand and respect the Mi'kmaq culture.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

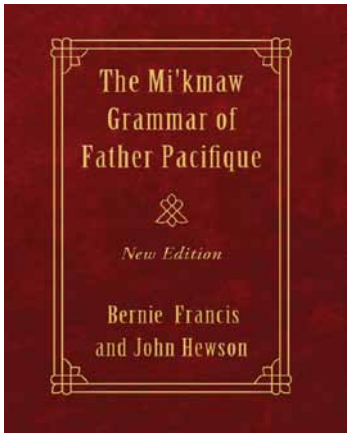


Mi'kmaq Medicines (2nd edition): Remedies and Recollections
Laurie Lacey

In this unique book, Laurie Lacey's reflections on the world of plant life and the gathering of remedies chronicles more than 70 plants used by the Mi'kmaq as medicines. Since the Mi'kmaq healing process begins with the gathering and preparation of medicines, Lacey takes us into swamps and bogs, the barrens and woods, to explore the habitats of plants with healing properties. He then illustrates each medicinal plant and describes its traditional use or uses. This new edition includes a fully revised text and a new preface from the author on current perspectives in Mi'kmaq medicines.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION



The Mi'kmaw Grammar of Father Pacifique
Bernie Francis and John Hewson

First published (1939) as "*Leçons grammaticales théoriques et pratiques de la langue micmaque" of Rev. Father Pacifique Buisson, O.F.M.Cap.*, *The Mi'kmaw Grammar of Father Pacifique* is a vast and important collection of information on the Mi'kmaw language. It represents a tradition of Mi'kmaw grammatical studies by missionary priests that spans more than 200 years from the days of abbé Pierre Maillard (ca. 1710–1762), to Father Pacifique. The purpose of updating the orthography is, of course, to give the reader who does not know the language exact information on the pronunciation of each Mi'kmaw word. It uses the Francis-Smith Orthography, which was declared as the official orthography of the Míkmaq Nation by the Grand Council in 1980. Now that the language has been lost on many reserves, it has become crucially important to use the new, exact, orthography.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

Mon Isle Madame: Une histoire acadienne
Gabriel LeBlanc

L'auteur, Gabriel LeBlanc, est un fier Acadien bien enraciné dans la culture acadienne et bon défenseur de la langue française. Raconteur "hors pair" de la vie des Acadiens de son patelin et d'histoires loufoques des villageois, vécues dans le passé, il sait faire rire son auditoire. Dans ce livre, il relate le folklore des gens à partir de la Déportation, leur arrivée en region et leur accueil par les Mi'kmaq. Les faits historiques dans ce livre maintiendront la mémoire des premiers arrivés à l'Isle Madame et feront la promotion de l'histoire de la communauté acadienne locale.

Reader

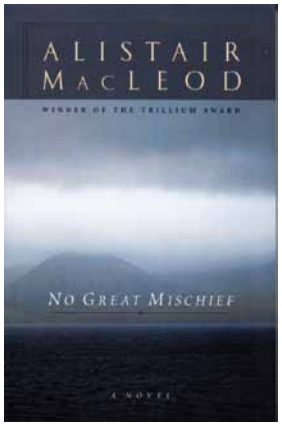
ADULT NONFICTION

The Money Pit: The Story of Oak Island and the World's Greatest Treasure Hunt
D'Arcy O'Connor

In *The Money Pit*, O'Connor gives a nice history of the small island in Nova Scotia. Oak Island has been a place of interest for treasure hunters since the 1700s.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

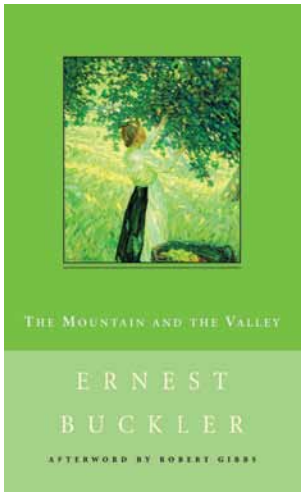


No Great Mischief
Alistair MacLeod

I picked this book up in a second-hand book shop in Bangkok during my 10-year sojourn in Southeast Asia. It brought me directly home to Nova Scotia. Every page saw me making notes about things I had forgotten, thoughts on my childhood, and dreams for the future. While reading this book I saw my home province on the klongs, in the streets and in the people around me who were so far removed from this place. For the days that I savoured this book, I was home. These pages transport you completely to Nova Scotia — that is why it must be within the number of "150 Books of Influence."

Reader

ADULT FICTION



The Mountain and the Valley
Ernest Buckler

I grew up in Bridgetown just next to where the novel was set, first living on a farm and then moving to a home surrounded by farms. My experiences so close to nature greatly shaped my life. But reading this book gave me insight into the lives of those who did the actual farming, and that it wasn't nearly so romantic as I might have thought…a precursor to my generation who wanted to escape that life.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

DID YOU KNOW? 380,000 questions were answered by Nova Scotia Public Library staff.

—NS Public Library Data Collection 2016/2017

No Retreating Footsteps: The Story of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders
Will R. Bird

No Retreating Footsteps is a history of the storied North Nova Scotia Highlanders and their experiences and exploits during World War II.

Librarian

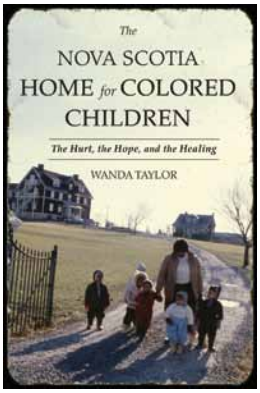
ADULT NONFICTION

Nova Scotia
Sherman Hines

In the early 1970s our province had a problem. Someone needed to promote the potential of Nova Scotia to the world, with all its scenic beauty. MacAskill had done that in the 1930s and '40s with his hand-coloured prints of the original *Bluenose* and Peggy's Cove. Helen Creighton, Hugh MacLennan and Thomas Raddall had created the descriptive narrative, but the new story needed colour photography. Liverpool native, Sherman Hines, saw a career opportunity in promoting his emerging Nova Scotia in "scenic pictorials." He decided to seize that moment in 1975, and a whole new Nova Scotia was presented to the world with his first book *Nova Scotia*. It went on to sell well over 100,000 copies and is still in print!

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

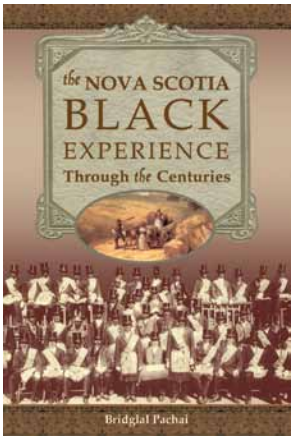


The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children: The Hurt, the Hope, and the Healing
Wanda Taylor

The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children is a troubling book that shows the result of negligence from the government and from locals. The book recounts many tales of abuse and neglect that went on for years in the Home, and encourages the reader to question the systems in place that are supposed to be helping, but which might be making things worse.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



The Nova Scotia Black Experience Through the Centuries
Bridglal Pachai

The Nova Scotia Black Experience Through the Centuries is a comprehensive account of the African Nova Scotian struggle to build a vital community in the face of racial discrimination. Originally published in two volumes as *Beneath the Clouds of the Promised Land*, this illustrated edition has been extensively updated and includes a new chapter tracing the experiences of Nova Scotia's Black community into the twenty-first century. Author Bridglal Pachai profiles the individuals and organizations that fought for equality in education, business, politics, religion, and the arts, and carved a path for tomorrow's leaders. Covering more than four hundred years of a people's history, heritage, and culture, *The Nova Scotia Black Experience Through the Centuries* is a powerful record, indispensable to any study of the province.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

A Nova Scotia Lullaby
Terrilee Bulger and Perri Craig (Illustrator)

Beautiful images of iconic Nova Scotian scenes.

Librarian

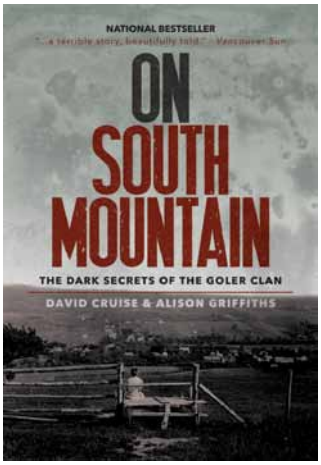
CHILDREN'S FICTION

The Nymph and the Lamp
Thomas H. Raddall

This book swept me away into the world of Nova Scotia in the 1920s. Just as strong as the human characters, the places where the story takes place become characters of their own: the windy, sandy isolation of Sable Island; bustling downtown Halifax; the idyllic farmland of the Annapolis Valley. Just as much as it is a love story between two people, I felt like it was also a love letter to Nova Scotia written by someone who writes as though he loves this province as much as I do.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

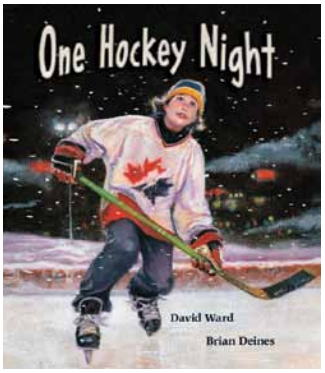


On South Mountain: The Dark Secrets of the Goler Clan
David Cruise and Alison Griffiths

This is a terrible story, but an important part of Nova Scotia's history. It is still something that a lot of locals seem to have a vague understanding of, but could use a little bit more context to fully understand and make sure something like this never happens again.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



One Hockey Night
David Ward and Brian Deines (Illustrator)

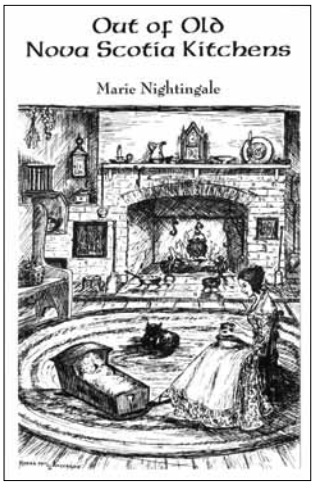
Owen and his family have just moved from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia, but while his friends are playing hockey on a frozen Saskatchewan lake, he is playing shinny in his driveway. With the help of some lobster crates and neighbours in a variety of NHL team jerseys, Owen's dad builds a backyard hockey rink and the whole community gets together to play. This book was inspired by an entry from Little Harbour for a Hockey Night in Canada contest for best backyard rink. And, to top it off, while the book was taking shape, Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby was making news as the youngest NHL captain to win the Stanley Cup.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION

"Many of us think of libraries in terms of buildings. Many libraries are built, I venture, as public monuments. And it is wonderful to have a great and grand building and it is wonderful to have a building with exceptional architectural flair. The new Halifax Central Library is a great example of a superb new library and Haligonians not only enjoy using the library they are proud of its looks. But when I think back on a life in books I tend to remember libraries in terms of the librarians, both professional and volunteer. I have always appreciated their courtesy and their willingness to help. Services like interlibrary loans and new book purchases and retrieval of archival materials have played a big part, a part I could never have afforded on my own, in the writing of my own books and in getting these stories out to the world.

—Lance Woolaver

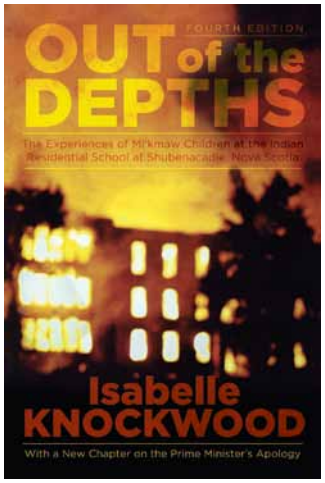


Out of Old Nova Scotia Kitchens
Marie Nightingale

It is a marvellous compilation of Nova Scotian recipes that are authentic, easy to follow and delicious. It is a historical and practical book, which should be in the kitchen of any baker in this province or any other for that matter. Excellent oatcakes!

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

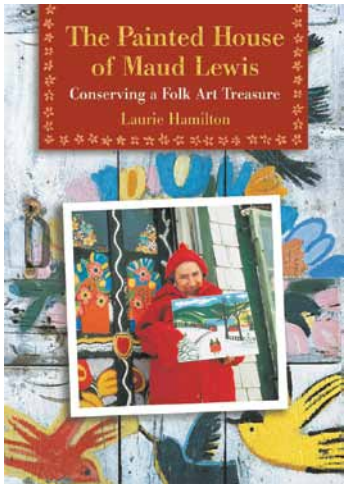


Out of the Depths: The Experiences of Mi'kmaw Children at the Indian Residential School at Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia
Isabelle Knockwood

Touches on the cultural abuse that Canada perpetrated on our Indigenous cultures. Knockwood speaks about her experiences, and those of other "students," at the Shubenacadie residential school. It's hard to read, but important to know.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

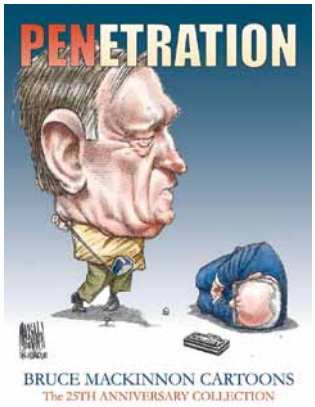


The Painted House of Maud Lewis: Conserving a Folk Art Treasure
Laurie Hamilton

For many years Maud Lewis was one of Nova Scotia's folk painters. In 1984, her house and its contents were purchased by the Province of Nova Scotia for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. In *The Painted House of Maud Lewis*, Laurie Hamilton, conservator at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, gives a detailed account of the house.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

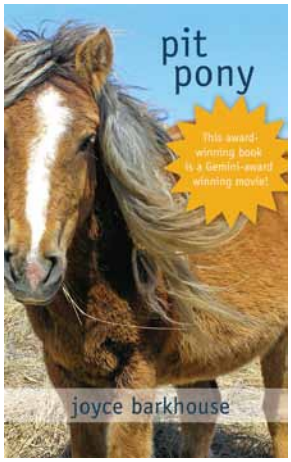


Penetration: Editorial Cartoons and Caricatures
Bruce MacKinnon

For twenty-five years Bruce MacKinnon has delighted and amused readers of Nova Scotia's daily newspaper, and collected here in *Penetration* are the best cartoons of the past eight years as well as Bruce's own retrospective covering his years as an editorial cartoonist. This twenty-fifth anniversary collection presents a brief history of Bruce's work, his own hilarious memories, unforgettable controversies, and the process behind creating insightful — and occasionally poignant — cartoons of the most significant issues of the day. Includes a foreword from CBC newsman and MacKinnon admirer Peter Mansbridge.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION



Pit Pony
Joyce Barkhouse

My daughter and I read this book together when she was seven, and we both fell instantly in love with it. It helped my daughter understand the social conditions that led to her great grandparents leaving Cape Breton, that child labour existed in our own backyard until relatively recently, and it inspired a love of Sable Island. After reading the book, Laura wanted to learn more about Sable Island and the ponies there. As a reader and as a parent, I loved this book as much as my daughter, and truly appreciated the way it captured the time and place, and led my child to learn more.

Reader

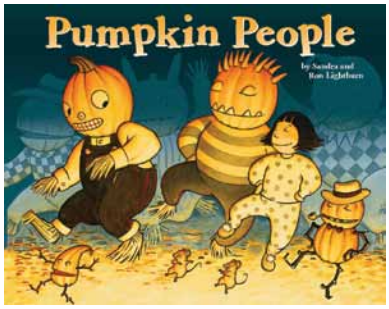
CHILDREN'S FICTION

A Practical Treatise on Coal, Petroleum, and Other Distilled Oils
Abraham Gesner

Although Gesner is better known for his *Remarks on the Geology and Mineralogy of Nova Scotia,* we felt it was important to note this work, which had a significant global impact. Although not for a mainstream reader, this book was the basis for the first textbook for petroleum refining and was translated into many languages. It gave the history of natural hydrocarbons, described the various source materials for distillates, and included real-world accounts of how to build and operate a hydrocarbon-refining factory. Essentially it was a science book that aided in the development of the oil industry.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

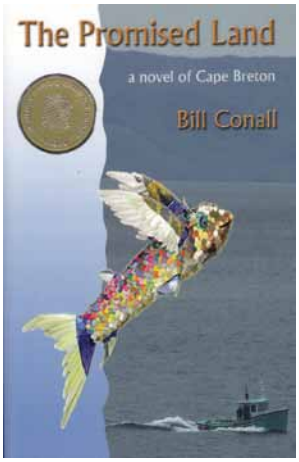


Pumpkin People
Sandra Lightburn and Ron Lightburn (Illustrator)

The first time I saw the pumpkin people I wondered what they did at night when no one was watching. This book wonders the same thing. It highlights an interesting piece of Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley.

Reader

CHILDREN'S FICTION

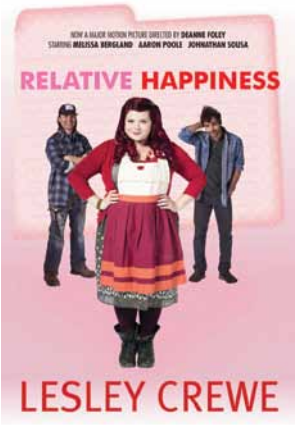


The Promised Land: A Novel of Cape Breton
Bill Conall

In 1970, a group of Hippies crosses the Canso Causeway to begin a new "back-to-the-land" life in Cape Breton. Grubby, scrawny and broke, they are not unlike the original Scottish immigrants of the 1800s, but with fewer bibles and more dope. Their several adventures culminate in the famous Hippies' Ceilidh, which is still a subject of conversation today. Then, forty years later, a young Ellen Coulter takes up her first doctoring job at a small clinic in Baddeck, and gradually settles in to life in the little village. *The Promised Land* is, first and foremost, a story of community; of people of all ages and backgrounds in all their human glory, complete with laughter, tears, and downright foolishness. Awarded the 2014 Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal For Humour.

Publisher

ADULT FICTION

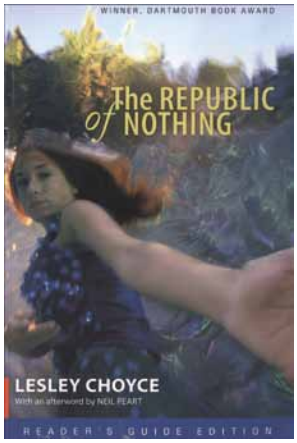


Relative Happiness
Lesley Crewe

Lesley's books embody the people and spirit of Cape Breton. It feels more like you're sitting in Lexie's kitchen having a chin wag with the characters rather than reading. The ebb and flow of the story rocks you like a dory on a summer's day.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

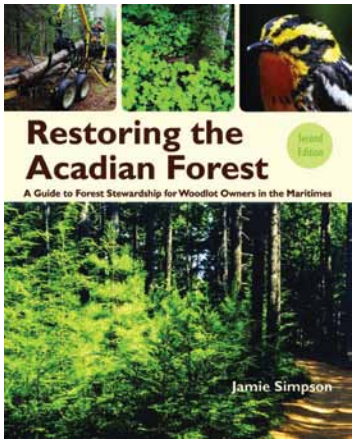


The Republic of Nothing
Lesley Choyce

The Republic of Nothing captures the quirky, creative and independent spirit of rural Nova Scotia. It is packed with fascinating characters and provides a unique plot and message that is at once entertaining and uplifting.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

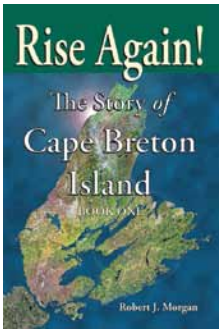


Restoring the Acadian Forest (2nd edition): A Guide to Forest Stewardship for Woodlot Owners in the Maritimes
Jamie Simpson

Restoring the Acadian Forest is a comprehensive resource for woodland owners in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, eastern Quebec, Maine, and northern New England. It explains how to maintain a healthy Acadian Forest woodlot, while restoring its economic and ecological value. The book includes practical advice on woodlot planning, tree harvesting, promoting wildlife habitat, and finding revenue sources, along with a guide to the trees of the Acadian Forest. This new edition includes new sections on legal obligations of owning woodlots and suitable small-scale equipment. This edition is fully illustrated with 120 photographs and illustrations.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

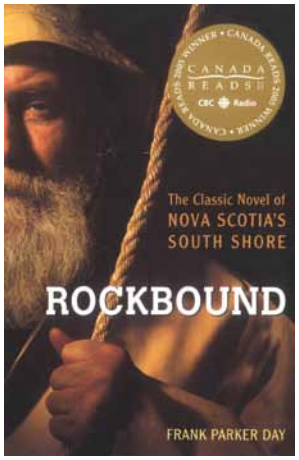


Rise Again!: The Story of Cape Breton Island (Books One and Two)
Robert J. Morgan

Book One takes you from our geological roots to Mi'kmaq life before European discovery and the building of Fortress Louisbourg — the island's First Economic Boom. We see the British and French battle for control, the settling of the Loyalists, the forced marriage of Cape Breton to Nova Scotia — and the birth of Separatism. Taking the reader up to the 20th century, Cape Breton becomes home for Acadians, Irish and Scots — the immigrant soul of Cape Breton. Book Two takes you through immigration during the Island's Second Economic Boom, our role as supplier and soldier in two World Wars, and the Mi'kmaq battle for cultural survival. Cape Breton becomes a battleground for the labour wars, while farmers, lumbermen and fishery workers struggle for subsistence. Through it all, flames of independence and community activism keep this island alive, and Cape Bretoners emerge as a distinct people whose music and literature entertain and inspire the wider world.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

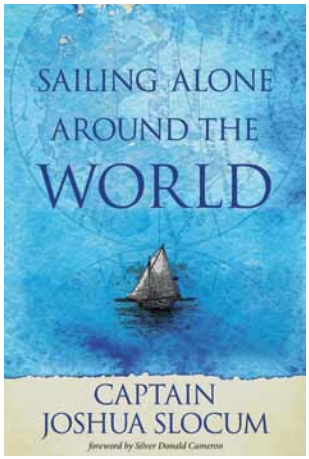


Rockbound
Frank Parker Day

This book gives a great overview of life in a rural Nova Scotia fishing village years ago. It contains humour and conversations in dialect as well as real-life joys and sorrows.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

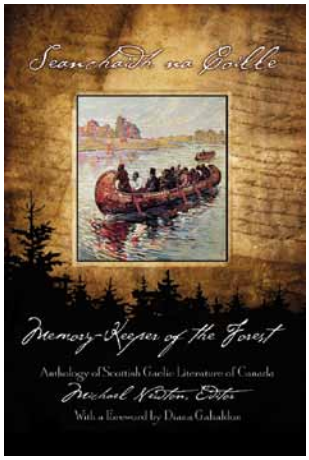


Sailing Alone Around the World
Joshua Slocum

Amazing account of Slocum's solo trip around the world. Slocum didn't just accomplish an incredible feat; he left a written record of an age long gone. He writes of cultures that have now disappeared amidst the wave of consumerism.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



Seanchaidh na Coille / Memory-Keeper of the Forest
Michael Newton

From Cape Breton to Vancouver, Gaelic-speaking communities could be found all over Canada from the late-18th to the mid-20th century. This is the first anthology of prose and poetry — mostly literary, some historical in tone — to give voice to the experience of Gaelic Canadians. A unique resource, it covers a wide range of territory and time, allowing Gaels to express their own opinions about a broad set of themes: migration, politics, religion, family life, identity, social organizations and more. Michael Newton has expertly contextualized a large amount of material, showing the rich variety and national extent of the Gaelic experience in Canada, opening it up to an English-speaking readership.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION

Sgeul gu Latha / Tales Until Dawn: The World of a Cape Breton Gaelic Story-Teller
Joe Neil MacNeil and John Shaw (Translator and Editor)

The stories in this book come from Joe Neil, one of Cape Breton's most important Gaelic tradition bearers, but they were collected and collated by John Shaw. John Shaw has published several important collections, including Gaelic song collections, but this was one of his earliest books, and is still used extensively in the community.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

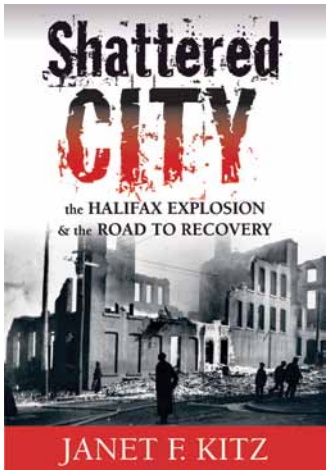
DID YOU KNOW? The Canada Council for the Arts distributes annual payments to Canadian authors through the Public Lending Right (PLR) Program as compensation for the free public access to their books in Canadian Public Libraries.

The Sharing Circle: Stories about First Nations Culture
Theresa Meuse and Arthur Stevens (Illustrator)

Sharing Circle includes seven children's stories about First Nations culture and spirituality practices. All seven stories, The Eagle Feather, The Dream Catcher, The Sacred Herbs, The Talking Circle, The Medicine Wheel, The Drum, and The Medicine Pouch explore First Nations cultural practices and teach children about Mi'kmaq beliefs and heritage. Researched and written by Mi'kmaw children's author Theresa Meuse and beautifully illustrated by Mi'kmaw illustrator Arthur Stevens, this book will engage and inform children of all ages.

Publisher

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

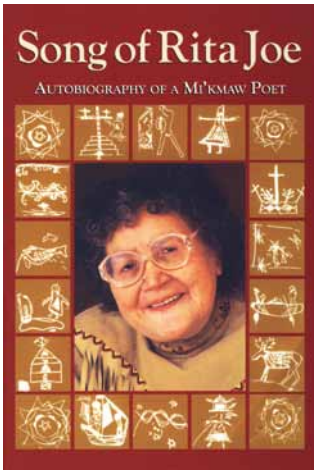


Shattered City: The Halifax Explosion and the Road to Recovery
Janet F. Kitz

Kitz provides the background to the explosion — what happened during the explosion as well as lots about the aftermath. While many Nova Scotians know the basics, I enjoyed how this book gave me lots of details on the Hydrostone area of Halifax including why that particular design was chosen. Every Canadian should know about the greatest explosion prior to the A bomb.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



Song of Rita Joe: Autobiography of a Mi'kmaw Poet
Rita Joe

The autobiography of the great Mi'kmaw poet, Rita Joe, this work explores her remarkable life: her early years in foster care and the Shubenacadie Residential School, and her later struggles as a wife, mother of eight, and leader in the Mi'kmaq community. It is the story of a remarkable and inspirational life.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

Songs Remembered in Exile: Traditional Gaelic Songs from Nova Scotia Recorded in Cape Breton and Antigonish County in 1937, with an Account of the Causes of the Highland Emigration, 1790–1835
John Lorne Campbell

Campbell was one of the earliest Gaelic song collectors in Nova Scotia, making several trips to Nova Scotia in the 1930s and 1950s, and making his earliest recordings on wax cylinder. He was also one of the only collectors to focus on Catholic areas of Cape Breton; later collectors almost all focused on the Protestant areas of the North Shore.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION

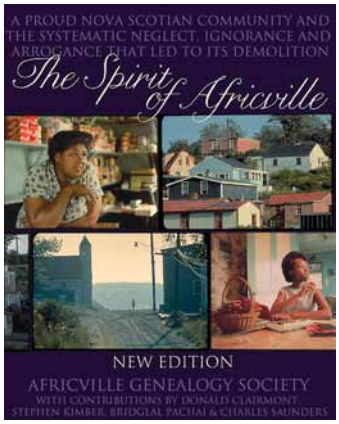
The Speeches and Public Letters of the Hon. Joseph Howe (Based upon Mr. Annand's edition of 1858)

Joseph Andrew Chisholm

As an orator, Howe probably has no peer in Canadian political life, and his speeches and letters, which have been published in two separate editions, are a distinctive contribution to our literature. His skill in the use of words, a direct result of his wide reading in world history and literature, has never been surpassed. Additionally, readers owe him a debt of gratitude for publishing *The Clockmaker* by Thomas Haliburton.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



The Spirit of Africville

Africville Genealogy Society, Donald H. Clairmont

I am 64 years old, a great reader, not Black, and this is the most moving and heart-breaking book I have ever read in all categories. Not to mention that it is true and part of Nova Scotia history that everyone should know about. It explains the root cause of so many problems that exist today, and shows us an example of true community.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

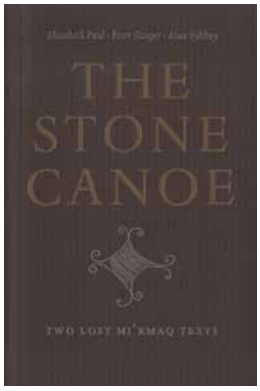
Star Drop

Mark Oakley

This delightful graphic novel at first glance may seem like a silly science fiction comic, but the themes of friendship and community and inner growth (and, of course, alien invasion) are well-written and beautifully drawn. It is also one of those rare science fiction/fantasy tomes that actually features strong female characters, who drive the story and save the day. The fact that most of the story is actually set in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and that you can see the characters interact in places like your favourite coffee shop, or library, or farmers' market, is just a lovely added bonus.

Reader

TEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL



The Stone Canoe: Two Lost Mi'kmaq Texts

Elizabeth Paul, Peter Sanger, and Alan Syliboy (Illustrator)

In 2003, poet and essayist Peter Sanger uncovered two manuscripts among the Rand holdings in the library at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. One of these contains the story of Little Thunder and his journey to find a wife, as told to Rand by Susan Barss in 1847. The other is the story of a woman who survives alone on an island after being abandoned by her husband. It was told by a storyteller known to us now only as Old Man Stevens and dates from 1884. Both are among the earliest examples of Indigenous Canadian literature recorded in their original language; the 1847 transcript being perhaps the earliest. Their publication in *The Stone Canoe* makes a significant contribution to our understanding of Mi'kmaq storytelling and Indigenous Canadian literature.

Publisher

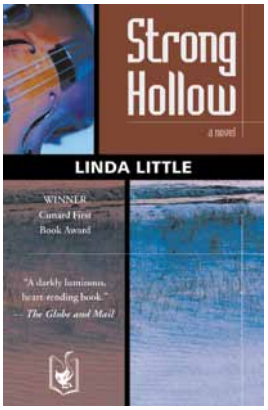
ADULT NONFICTION

A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder
James De Mille

Long before Jurassic Park, 19th-century Dalhousie Professor, James De Mille, penned this journey to a lost world at the end of the earth. Cannibal tribes and dinosaurs, romance and escape make it a fun adventure story in the genre of *She* and *The Land that Time Forgot*. De Mille's carefully constructed Lost World, however, is also a clever satire, offering an inverted reflection of 19th-century social values: poverty is desirable, darkness is preferable, and love is best unrequited. At first this world seems repulsive and bizarre, but allows the reader to see, in contrast, the absurdities in their own. As we moved into the 21st century and wrestle with our own society's values around wealth, privilege, and power, the message in *Strange Manuscript* may yet be relevant. In any case, who does not like the idea of riding on the back of a pterodactyl?

Reader

ADULT FICTION

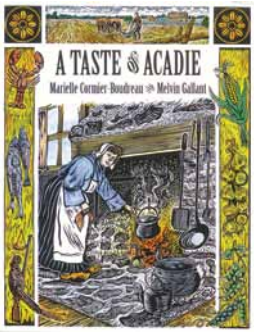


Strong Hollow
Linda Little

A Nova Scotian protagonist who finds his true self, despite the restrictive nature of his rural community. A realistic portrayal of Nova Scotia including the deep connection to music.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

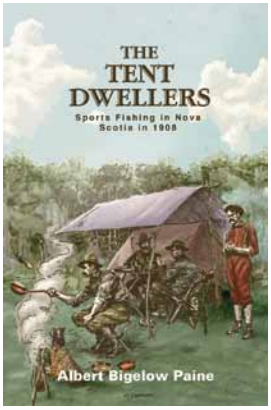


A Taste of Acadie
Marielle Cormier-Boudreau and Melvin Gallant

For *A Taste of Acadie*, Melvin Gallant and Marielle Cormier-Boudreau travelled all over Acadia, from the Gaspé Peninsula to Cape Breton, from the tip of Prince Edward Island to the Magdalen Islands, and around northern New Brunswick and southern Nova Scotia. They gathered the culinary secrets of traditional Acadian cooks while there was still time, and then they adapted more than 150 recipes for today's kitchens. The indigenous cuisine of Acadia is a distant relative of French home cooking, born of necessity and created from what was naturally available. Roast porcupine or seal-fat cookies may not be to every modern diner's taste, but the few recipes of this nature in *A Taste of Acadie* hint at the ingenuity of women who fed their families with what the land provided.

Publisher

ADULT NONFICTION



The Tent Dwellers: Sports Fishing in Nova Scotia in 1908
Albert Bigelow Paine

This book is the entertaining adventures of two New England men and their local guides. The pair land in Yarmouth, travel by train to Maitland, and drive to Jake's Landing from which they venture deep into the Tobeatic wilderness area during the summer of 1908. They bring an amazing amount of gear in two heavily loaded canoes and make their way through lakes, rivers and portages. Their hilarious misadventures as they fish and search for moose, that include an encounter with poison ivy and seemingly incessant rain, make for great reading. The book is of historical and geographical significance in addition to being a superb story.

Librarian

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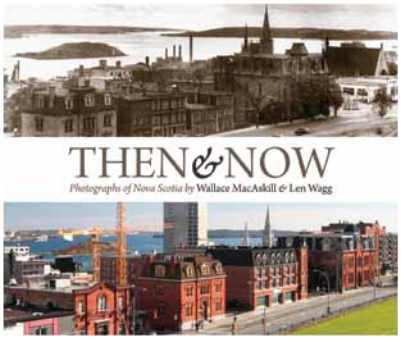
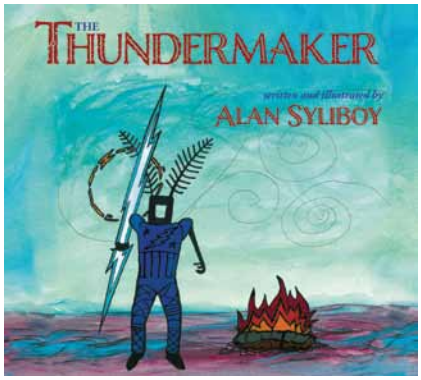


Then & Now: Photographs of Nova Scotia
Wallace MacAskill and Len Wagg

Len Wagg's *Then & Now* not only captures the evolution of Nova Scotia since Wallace MacAskill's time, it also captures the imagination. The hours I spent poring over both sets of photos left me with a better understanding of how our province has changed over the years (and why), and a greater appreciation for the work of both MacAskill and Wagg. While it would have been difficult for MacAskill to physically access some of the locations, Wagg would have faced similar challenges in matching the shots while working around new(ish) construction. A stunning book.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

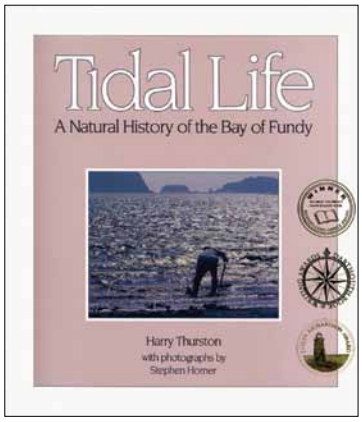


The Thundermaker
Alan Syliboy

This story follows Little Thunder as he learns about his Mi'kmaw identity. Featuring petroglyph-inspired illustrations by celebrated Mi'kmaw artist Alan Syliboy, the book itself is based on a multimedia exhibit, which toured libraries across Nova Scotia in 2014–15.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION



Tidal Life: A Natural History of the Bay of Fundy
Harry Thurston

The tides of the Bay of Fundy are the largest in the world. In this book, Harry Thurston explores the daily rhythms and life cycles of those creatures and people who dwell on its shores and in its waters. This fascinating book holds many stories of the fishermen, lighthouse keepers, naturalists and scientists, who help us experience this natural wonder of Nova Scotia.

Librarian

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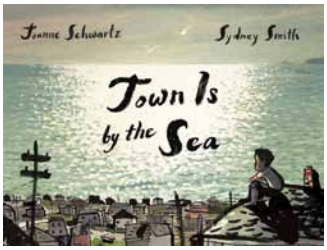
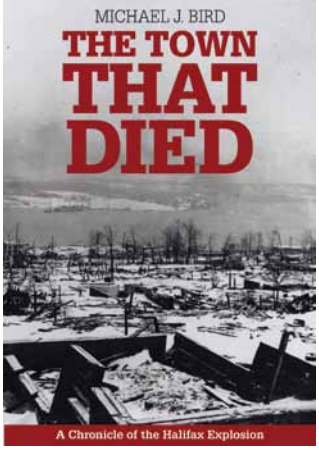


Town Is by the Sea
Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith (Illustrator)

This picture book is bound to become a classic. Set in Cape Breton in the 1950s, it is an ode to small-town coal mining life. Nova Scotians will recognize the way of life, the family ties, and the pace of a small town. The book is an intergenerational gem with gentle, poetic text, and illustrations that capture the contrast of the sparkling water and the deep dark mine. Life in a small coal mining community, family relationships and hard-working rural towns are beautifully drawn through words and images.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION

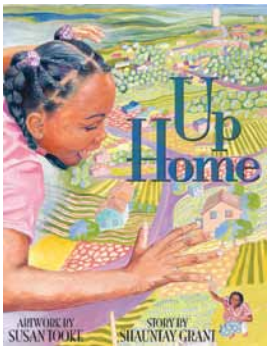


The Town that Died: A Chronicle of the Halifax Explosion
Michael J. Bird

A fact-filled account of the greatest disaster to befall a Canadian city. This terrible disaster is known as the Halifax Explosion. This book is the first documentary account told from the personal experiences of survivors.

Librarian

ADULT NONFICTION



Up Home
Shauntay Grant and Susan Tooke (Illustrator)

This gorgeous picture book showcases one of Nova Scotia's most negatively portrayed communities, North Preston, with the warmth and gentleness that those who live there know it really has. Written in African Nova Scotian vernacular by Halifax's former Poet Laureate, this lyrical book shows that communities are much more than they seem, and you often need a local eye to guide you.

Reader

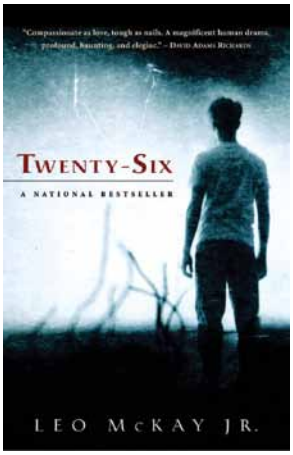
CHILDREN'S POETRY

Trapper Boy
Hugh R. MacDonald

This book, by a local author, totally captures the early days of coal mining in Cape Breton from an entire family's perspective. Young boys and men of the time had dreams of their own to follow, but large families in rural Cape Breton needed everyone to contribute financially in order to survive. That meant going underground, and facing all the fears and dangers that went with that. And what makes the ordeal even worse is that the parents didn't really want their children to take on these adult responsibilities. It was only out of necessity, and with the sheer bravery of these boys, that their families could make it from one day to the next. A story wonderfully told through the eyes and heart of a very young but sensitive and courageous protagonist.

Reader

TEEN FICTION



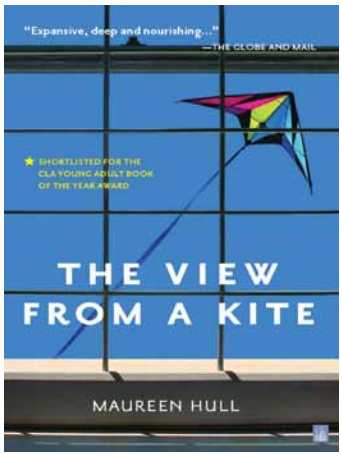
Twenty-Six
Leo McKay Jr.

We should include this title because the foundation upon which our province was built includes the blood, sweat, tears, and unfortunately in many cases, lives of people who have extracted and harvested our natural resources. *Twenty-Six* captures the uncertainty, instability, fears, determination, strength and resilience of our blue-collar roots.

Reader

ADULT FICTION

One Book NOVA SCOTIA **2012 Selection**

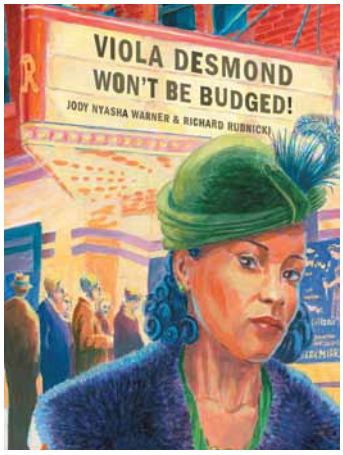


The View from a Kite
Maureen Hull

Gwen is a typical 1970s teenager who happens to be stuck in a tuberculosis sanatorium in Cape Breton. Coping with tragedy and loss, in addition to her illness, she tackles life with humour. Readers can appreciate the setting and learn about this part of Cape Breton history.

Librarian

TEEN FICTION

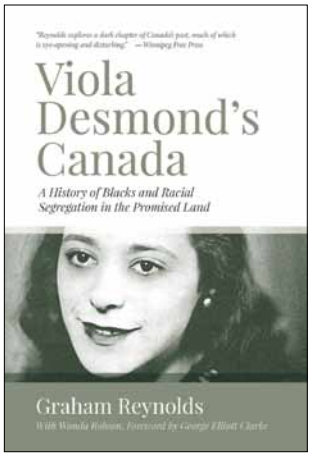


Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged
Jody Nyasha Warner and Richard Rudnicki (Illustrator)

The African Nova Scotian community is one of Canada's oldest and most established Black communities. This picture book tells the story of Viola Desmond, an important and unsung hero of the Black Rights Movement who refused to give up her seat in a segregated movie theatre in New Glasgow in 1946.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION



Viola Desmond's Canada: A History of Blacks and Racial Segregation in the Promised Land
Graham Reynolds with Wanda Robson

In 1946, Viola Desmond was wrongfully arrested for sitting in a whites-only section of a movie theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Most Canadians are aware of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a racially segregated bus in Alabama, but Viola Desmond's act of resistance occurred nine years earlier. However, many Canadians are still unaware of Desmond's story or that racial segregation existed throughout many parts of Canada during most of the twentieth century. On the subject of race, Canadians seem to exhibit a form of collective amnesia. *Viola Desmond's Canada* is a ground-breaking book that provides a concise overview of the narrative of the Black experience in Canada. Reynolds traces this narrative from slavery under French and British rule in the eighteenth century to the practice of racial segregation and the fight for racial equality in the twentieth century.

Publisher

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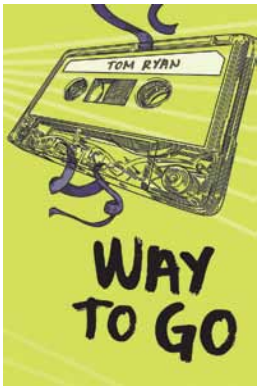
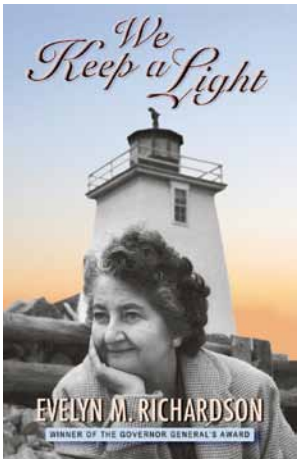


Way To Go
Tom Ryan

Tom Ryan's first novel *Way To Go* is a positive LGTBQ story set in Cape Breton. The book reflects the normal confusion of navigating the teenage years along with the added challenges of sexual self-discovery. Why is it an important read? If we can see ourselves in what we read, we feel less alone in the world.

Librarian

TEEN FICTION



We Keep a Light
Evelyn May Richardson (Cox)

I first read this book as a child. It captured my imagination with its imagery of the Nova Scotia coast, the fascination of island life, and the many details about a self-sufficient life using the natural resources available and hard work, which was the norm for many people in small communities across the province. It shows our strong historical reliance on the sea as a source of travel and industry. It gives us a glimpse into a unique environment at a time that was both simpler and more difficult, but when there was a stronger tie to the land than most people have now.

Reader

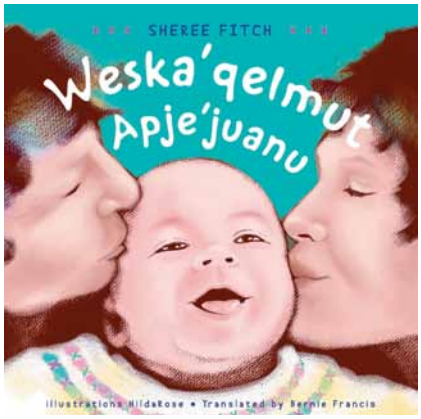
ADULT NONFICTION

We Were Not the Savages (3rd edition): Collision Between European and Native American Civilizations
Daniel N. Paul

This book turns the history that many of us learned in school on its head. Although it's now a fairly well-known title, when first published it was regarded as inflammatory and highly controversial in some quarters. Non-Indigenous Nova Scotians need to understand this perspective on our history if we are truly to work toward Peace and Reconciliation.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION



Weska'qelmut Apje'juanu / Kisses Kisses Baby O
Sheree Fitch, Hilda Rose (Illustrator), Bernie Francis (Translator)

Sheree Fitch is a well-known author of many favorite children's books. *Kisses Kisses Baby O* is unique because babies born in Nova Scotia receive a copy in the Read to Me! bags that are distributed to babies across the province. In keeping with our province's Acadian and Indigenous heritage, this book has also been translated into French and Mi'kmaq, and this Mi'kmaq version is included in the Mi'kmaq Read to Me! bags.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION

DID YOU KNOW?

- 12,000 programs were offered to adults in Nova Scotia Public Libraries
- 134,000 people attended adult programs in Nova Scotia Public Libraries
- 11,000 programs were offered to children and teens in Nova Scotia Public Libraries
- 210,000 children and teens attended programs in Nova Scotia Public Libraries

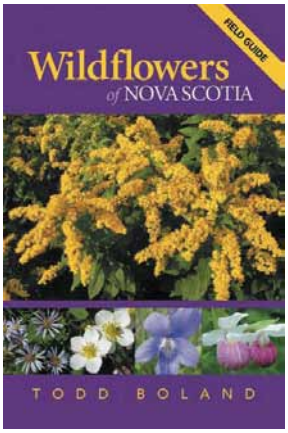
—Nova Scotia Public Library Data Collection 2016/2017

Why I Love Nova Scotia
Daniel Howarth

Children depicted as animals tell, in their own words, why they love this province. A perfect souvenir for a child visiting grandparents or family in Nova Scotia, and a good read-together book for families. Remember your visits to Nana's house, trips to the beach, and visiting the history of Nova Scotia with this board book.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION



Wildflowers of Nova Scotia: Field Guide
Todd Boland

This field guide is a great read for wildflower enthusiasts. This book is an authoritative guide to over 700 species of native and introduced species of wildflowers in Nova Scotia. A series of page tabs and icons, along with full colour photos, offers easy identification of wild plants. A great book for both the novice and expert botanist.

Reader

ADULT NONFICTION

Winds of L'Acadie
Lois Donovan

What a way to explore your Acadian background: spend the summer with your grandparents in Grand Pré and get transported back to the year 1755. It pays to know history, in case you accidently time-travel like 16-year-old Sarah because you might be able to save a life. Donovan transforms a modern girl's trip to the past into a long hard look at a dark period in Canada's history.

Librarian

CHILDREN'S FICTION

When I was a kid, I spent hours in the children's library, browsing through the non-fiction books. While I read lots of novels, I was drawn to non-fiction because I was fascinated by true stories.

One afternoon, after stocking up on books to take to the cottage, I hopped into the front seat of our car, and my mother glanced down at the pile of books on my lap. On top was a non-fiction book titled, *How To Cope With An Alcoholic Parent*.

"What? Why do you have that book?" my mother squawked. "I'll never be able to show my face in the children's library again!"

I didn't choose that book because I had concerns about my parents but because I was captivated by the personal stories that were inside the book. I skipped the connecting narrative and simply read the first-person accounts of teenagers. I believe that book, and that well-stocked children's library, started me, at the age of nine, on my path as a non-fiction writer."

—*Sara Jewell author of* Field Notes: A City Girl's Search for Heart and Home in Rural Nova Scotia, *published fall 2016 by Nimbus.*

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