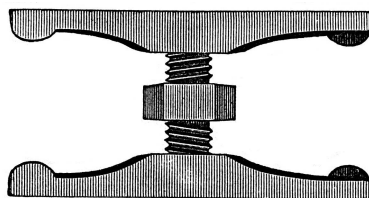




The Porcupine's Quill

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Fall 2018



The Porcupine's Quill
Press sharply.

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In recent years all of our frontlist, and select backlist, has become available in searchable PDF format designed primarily for use on tablets. Fourteen of these quality digital productions have been favoured with recognition by the eLit awards programme administered by the Jenkins Group of Traverse City, MI.

To date the collection as a whole includes almost 100 Porcupine's Quill titles as well as 20 backlist issues of the *Devil's Artisan*. To explore the range:

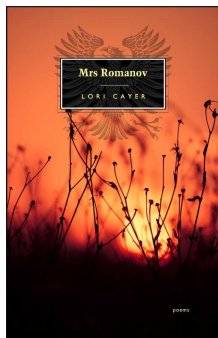
- contact us directly at store.porcupinesquill.ca
- or order through **Google Play**, which will facilitate international sales in any number of local currencies. Digital copies of the *Devil's Artisan* are also available from **Magzter**, and select PQL backlist may be available from **Ebsco**, **Gibson Library Services**, **OverDrive**, **ProQuest** and **Scribd**.

The collection features the poetry of P.K. Page, the wordless novels of George A. Walker and all seventeen titles in our Essential Poets series, showcasing work by Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, Don Coles, Daryl Hine, D.G. Jones, M. Travis Lane, Jay Macpherson, Richard Outram, P.K. Page, James Reaney and other luminaries.



STICKY fingers is a somewhat irreverent moniker we have adopted for a new digital imprint of the Porcupine's Quill that offers short, attractive, informative editions that probe the intersection between Canadian literature and the book arts, packaged exclusively for mobile devices.

Each chapbook is available in ePub for iPads and Android tablets, and Mobi for Kindle, and retails for \$2.99. The latest release, *The Fleming Files*, features eleven articles that originally appeared in the *Devil's Artisan* in 2008. The ePub version was recently offered as a promotion orchestrated by the Association of Registered Graphic Designers.



Mrs Romanov

Lori Cayer

SEPTEMBER

Lori Cayer's fourth poetry collection reveals the unexpectedly quotidian concerns of Alexandra Feodorovna, the last tsarina of Imperial Russia.

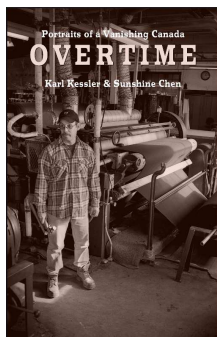
Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna was many things. She was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, a dedicated dupe of the notorious mystic Grigori Rasputin—and a loving wife of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and mother to their five children.

In her collection of poems, *Mrs Romanov*, Lori Cayer gives voice to the expectations and fears of the last tsarina of Imperial Russia. With great empathy and emotion, she presents a portrait of a woman whose concerns, even as she navigates the 'forest of eyes and gossiping teeth' of her unwelcoming adoptive country, prove startlingly domestic. Cayer captures Alexandra's devotion to her husband and her children, in particular her constant anxiety over her young, haemophilic son: 'anyone who could see into this house / would see love / breathing itself like a tubercular lung / imprinting itself to life like a snapshot'. But in so doing, Cayer exposes another Alexandra, one whose attempts to bolster her politically inept husband caused Russia to veer sharply from autocracy to revolution, and her family from prosperity to fatal captivity.

Lori Cayer is the author of three previous poetry collections, including *Dopamine Blunder* (Tightrope, 2016), *Attenuations of Force* (Frontenac House, 2010) and *Stealing Mercury* (The Muses' Company, 2004). A winner of the John Hirsch Award and the Eileen McTavish Sykes Award, she is a former co-editor of *Contemporary Verse 2* and is co-founder of the Lansdowne Prize for Poetry. Her poetry is endlessly informed by her editorial work in scientific research publishing. She lives in Winnipeg.

\$16.95 • 112 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-417-9



Overtime

PORTRAITS OF A VANISHING CANADA

Karl Kessler & Sunshine Chen

SEPTEMBER

Karl Kessler and Sunshine Chen document the lives of men and women who practise vanishing trades, professions and cultural traditions in the cities and townships of Waterloo Region, Ontario.

When's the last time you visited a tailor? A shoemaker? A small-appliance repairer? Have you met a sign painter, a typewriter mechanic or a shirt factory worker? Do camera stores and independent department stores still exist in this day and age? What exactly are the principal responsibilities of a town clock keeper?

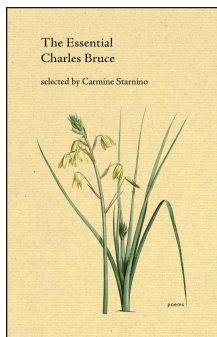
As automation and modernisation bring to the brink of extinction many 20th century ways of making a living, we find ourselves in danger of forgetting the experiences of generations of Canadian tradespeople. Through the compelling photographs and moving interviews in *Overtime*, Karl Kessler and Sunshine Chen give voice to fifty of Canada's proud workers and artisans still plying vanishing trades, professions and cultural traditions in Waterloo Region, Ontario, preserving their stories for generations to come.

Karl Kessler is a film-and-darkroom photographer originally from New York City. He moved to Ontario in 1996 and currently works as a researcher and writer in the heritage field. With his wife Jane, he coordinates the annual architectural and heritage event Doors Open Waterloo Region. He lives in Waterloo, Ontario.

Sunshine Chen originally trained in architecture at the University of Waterloo. He now runs Storybuilders Inc., using photo, video and audio to tell the stories and share the experiences of people, places and organizations across Canada. He lives in Canmore, Alberta.

\$19.95 • 128 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

PHOTOGRAPHY/General • 978-0-88984-415-5



The Essential Charles Bruce

selected by Carmine Starnino

OCTOBER

The 18th volume in the Essential Poets series explores the clear, direct verse and vernacular imagination of Maritime poet Charles Bruce, whose practical, no-nonsense lyrics eschewed the trappings of modernist poetry.

The poetry of Charles Bruce resonates with the sights and sounds of the Maritimes. Unlike the modernist poets of his time, Bruce embraced rural settings, tactile imagery, structural simplicity and direct language.

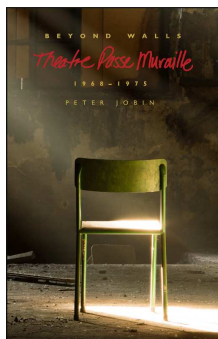
The Essential Charles Bruce introduces the poet's work, long out of print, to modern audiences with a selection of his straightforward yet stirring verses that take as their subject the workaday existence along the shores of Nova Scotia's Channel Shore. Populated by farmers and fisherman and taking place among bucolic cliffsides and beaches, his poems capture modest moments of everyday life and retain the subtly musical cadences of the regional dialect.

The Essential Poets Series presents the works of Canada's most celebrated poets in a package that is beautiful, accessible and affordable.

Charles Bruce was born in May of 1906 in Port Shoreham, Nova Scotia. He spent many years as a journalist, including a stint as a war correspondent during World War II. In addition to his prose work, he published six poetry collections characterized by their direct use of language and imagery, and by their focus on the sights and sounds of Nova Scotia's Channel Shore. In 1951, he earned a Governor General's Award for his collection of poetry, *The Mulgrave Road*. Charles Bruce died in 1971 in Toronto, Ontario.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-416-2



Beyond Walls

Peter Jobin

NOVEMBER

An insider's look at the early development of Theatre Passe Muraille, from its origin as a radical and provocative theatre company out of Rochdale College to its evolution into a Toronto cultural institution that has helped to shape Canadians' perception of homegrown theatre.

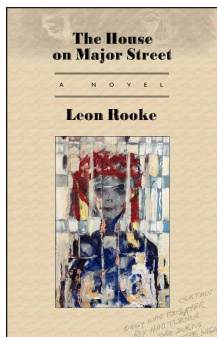
A mainstay of Toronto's theatrical landscape since 1968, Theatre Passe Muraille (Theatre Without / Beyond Walls) has focused on breaking down barriers — between actors and spectators, for example — while developing a populist aesthetic that has found resonance with both rural and urban audiences.

In *Beyond Walls*, Peter Jobin considers the fledgling years of Canada's longest running alternative theatre. It is a roller coaster ride of soaring highs and crushing lows, from sell-out shows and innovative new ideas to morality squad arrests and financial crises. It documents the evolution of the theatre's focus from its early interest in radical American theatrics to its later, Canadian nationalist direction. Jobin's investigation shows that, by embracing diversity, collaboration and inclusivity, Theatre Passe Muraille has become a living and breathing representation of the city of Toronto and has helped to change the way Canadian audiences feel about Theatre. The book includes period photographs by Lionel Douglas and Bob Nasmith, and a Foreword by dramaturge David Ferry.

Peter Jobin is an actor and writer who has participated in Canadian theatre and film for over fifty years. Born in Montreal, he appeared in plays in Canada, the USA and the UK before beginning a career as a screenwriter. He is known for films such as *Happy Birthday to Me* (1981) and *Diamond Cut Diamond* (2001). He lives in Toronto.

\$16.95 • 128 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

PERFORMING ARTS/Theatre • 978-0-88984-418-6



The House on Major Street

Leon Rooke

DECEMBER

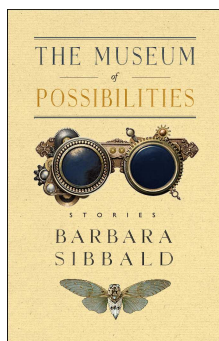
Populated by media personalities, literary characters, three-legged deer-like creatures and an array of idiosyncratic Toronto neighbours, Leon Rooke's latest extravaganza is an internal and external picaresque tale which begins with a dramatic bicycle accident and explores, along the way, the blurred boundaries between the stories we read, the stories we tell and the stories we live.

When free-spirited teenager Zan sets out on her bike to buy kitty litter she has no idea she's about to send her neighbour and maybe-sort-of crush Tallis into a months-long coma, kicking off a series of events both real and surreal that will change everything and everyone on her Toronto Annex street. Metafictional appearances are made by characters as diverse as J. J. O'Molloy, Chekhov's Riabovitch, an infamous lapdog and the indignant Rebecca Whitehall, heroine of fictional Sheila Shott's steamy romance novels. As these and divers others interact with the peculiarly ordinary inhabitants and neighbours of 2X8 Major Street, friendships, dalliances and alliances are formed and re-formed with uncommon results. Politics and literary culture intrude by turns. Through it all two questions overarch: Will Tallis ever wake up? And what will that mean for Zan?

Leon Rooke is an energetic and prolific storyteller whose writing is characterized by inventive language, experimental form and an extreme range of characters with distinctive voices. *Shakespeare's Dog* won the Governor General's Award in 1983 and toured as a play as far afield as Barcelona and Edinburgh. *A Good Baby* was made into a feature film. Rooke founded the Eden Mills Writers' Festival in 1989. In 2007, he was made a member of the Order of Canada. He lives in Toronto.

\$19.95 • 192 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Literary • 978-0-88984-419-3



The Museum of Possibilities

Barbara Sibbald

RECENTLY ACCLAIMED



A collection of 15 ‘shadow-box’ narratives—short, concentrated scenes depicting complicated relationships, strong emotions and hard consequences.

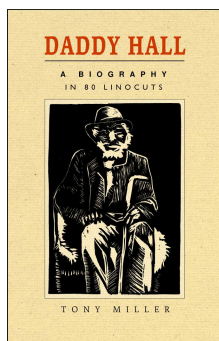
Barbara Sibbald presents a collection of quirky short stories focusing on pivotal moments of intense longing—for love, for power, for fame, for freedom, for revenge, and perhaps most of all, for connection in an increasingly disaffected world. Sibbald is a master of the slow burn, and of building psychological tensions in unexpected ways. And yet there is humour at times as well, which allows the reader bursts of levity that are at once ridiculous and delightfully dark.

The Museum of Possibilities is delivered in three parts. The five initial stories of women discovering the consequences of their actions—or inactions as the case may be—are full of psychological suspense, and verge on the supernatural. A second grouping of flash-fiction stories is wry, witty and satirical, and features the unbelievable antics of the jealous, bitter, disaffected and fearful who are trapped inside their own domestic purgatory. Lastly there is a short-story cycle and coming-of-age saga of air force brat Wanda. The stories in this section focus on Wanda’s first moments of sacrifice and jealousy, of sexual experimentation, of empathy, and of desperation, starting from childhood and proceeding through adolescence to adulthood.

Barbara Sibbald is an author, editor and journalist. She has published a number of books including *The Book of Love* and *Regarding Wanda*. A health journalist for over twenty years, she currently works as News and Humanities editor at the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. She lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

\$19.95 • 182 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Short Stories • 978-0-88984-400-1



Daddy Hall

A BIOGRAPHY IN 80 LINOCUTS

Tony Miller

RECENTLY ACCLAIMED



A striking visual saga in linocuts of the life of John ‘Daddy’ Hall, a man of Mohawk and African-American descent who survived war, capture and slavery to become a pillar of the community in 19th-century Owen Sound. With an introduction by George Elliott Clarke.

Born of a Mohawk father and an escaped-slave mother, John ‘Daddy’ Hall was a product of not one but two oppressed peoples. His gripping tale is the stuff of legends—of the War of 1812, the harsh realities of slavery and of triumph in the face of adversity. Over the course of his 117-year life, Hall identified as a freeman, a scout for the British under Chief Tecumseh, a captured slave, an escapee on the Underground Railroad, a town crier in Owen Sound, a husband and, as his nickname aptly suggests, father to an impressive number of children.

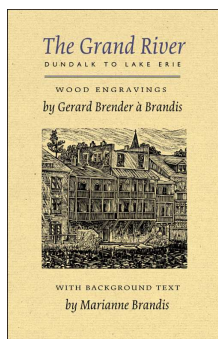
Tony Miller’s 80 stark and arresting linocuts present an unflinching portrait of a remarkable African-Canadian whose story of resilience and reinvention offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of Southwestern Ontario.

‘Kudos to Tony Miller in imagining and drafting Hall’s story as he does. We see the poised, white-hand-held bullwhip and we see the pregnant black belly; we see the War of 1812 as a series of muskets and tomahawks; we see Hall enslaved, we see him escape. He be a prototype, one-man Underground Railroad. Finally, we see him crying ‘Freedom!’ through the streets of Owen Sound.’ —George Elliott Clarke

Tony Miller is a Canadian painter, sculptor and printmaker. Born and raised in Owen Sound, his experiences of facing racism and poverty instilled in him a fascination with his African roots. His art reflects an appreciation of the beauty of many cultures and seeks to explore the effects of past and present on humanity.

\$22.95 • 176 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY/Cultural Heritage • 978-0-88984-403-2



The Grand River

DUNDALK TO LAKE ERIE

G. Brender à Brandis / Marianne Brandis



RECENTLY ACCLAIMED

Wood engraver Gerard Brender à Brandis and writer Marianne Brandis reveal the private life of the Grand River in Ontario; their collaboration documents the ecological, social and historical significance of this Canadian Heritage River.

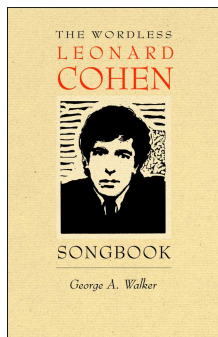
Winding for nearly 300 kilometres through southwestern Ontario, the Grand River has a watershed rich in prehistoric, historical and contemporary features. It is important in the history of First Peoples, and the story of European settlement along its banks is a microcosm of that in Canada as a whole. The watershed contains many treasures, such as part of the Carolinian Forest, some of the best farmland in Canada, the spectacular Elora Gorge and a wealth of historic architecture.

In images and words, *The Grand River* explores the river's history, beginning with its formation after the end of the last Ice Age. The book gives insight into the private life of a river—the dialogue of land and water—as well as the ways in which a river interacts with the planet. It takes the reader on an imaginary journey from the Grand's first drop of moving water at the source to the point where it flows into Lake Erie.

Gerard Brender à Brandis has been engraving on wood for fifty years. His work is represented in many collections from coast to coast, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, Gallery/Stratford and the National Gallery of Canada. Gerard's sister, **Marianne Brandis**, has written historical fiction, biography and memoirs, as well as explorations of the relationship between people and their natural and built environment. Both are now living in Stratford, Ontario.

\$24.95 • 150 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

ART/Prints • 978-0-88984-381-3



The Wordless Leonard Cohen Songbook

George A. Walker



RECENTLY ACCLAIMED

A series of eighty wood engravings celebrating the 80th birthday of one of Canada's most beloved cultural icons and commemorating the artistic accomplishments of Leonard Cohen over a career that spanned six decades.

Arranged chronologically—beginning with the young Leonard Cohen on his tricycle and ending with an image of Cohen being cared for by a young nurse—Walker's engravings depict scenes from Cohen's many and varied creative endeavours, including poetry, novels, singing and songwriting. The book also presents portraits of some of the famous characters who shared Cohen's life and friendship, from poets Irving Layton and Allan Ginsberg, to musicians Joni Mitchell and Janis Joplin, to celebrated artist Andy Warhol.

The Wordless Leonard Cohen Songbook takes as its inspiration not only Cohen's own poems, novels and songs, but also other sources, from biographies about the Canadian icon to short anecdotes relayed at a concert. In his images, Walker also strives to communicate the importance of Cohen's Zen Buddhist philosophy.

George A. Walker is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist, teacher, author and illustrator. He is Associate Professor at OCAD University in Toronto and teaches popular courses in book arts and printmaking. Among the many book projects Walker has illustrated are two hand-printed stories written by English author Neil Gaiman. He is also the illustrator of the first Canadian editions of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*. George A. Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts.

\$22.95 • 192 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

ART/BIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-375-2

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The Porcupine's Quill is an independent Canadian publisher which operates with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.

The support of the Ontario Media Development Corporation through the Ontario Book Publishers Tax Credit (OBPTC) and the OMDC Book Fund, as well as of the Government of Canada, are also gratefully acknowledged.



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