

**NEW**

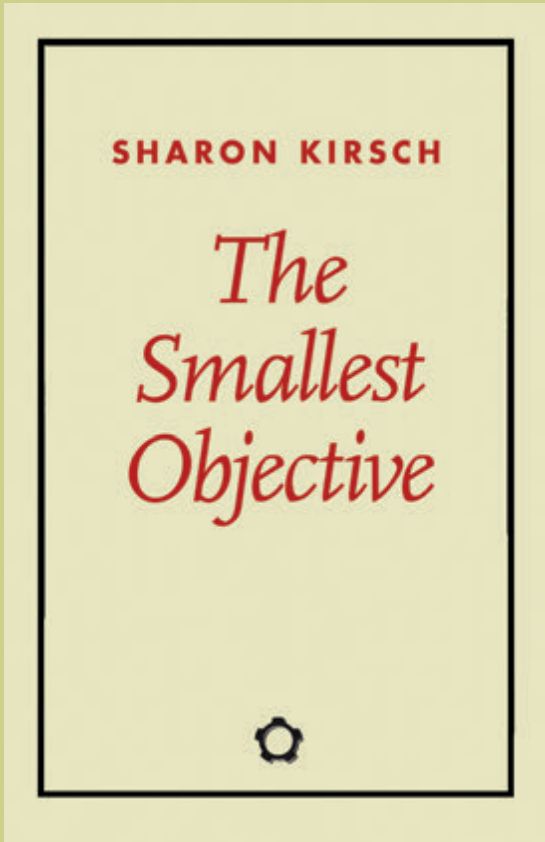
**STAR**

**BOOKS**

**20/1**

**Winter /  
Spring 2020**

**New Titles  
& Recent  
Highlights**



# The Smallest Objective

**Sharon Kirsch**

Memoir

224 pp

Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"

ISBN 978-1-55420-155-6

\$21 CAD :: \$19 USD

Publication date :: April 23, 2020

- Toronto book launch
- Advertising in *subTerrain*, *Montreal Review of Books*, *Geist*, and *Room*
- Targeted review copy distribution

A lantern slide, a faded recipe book, a postcard from Mexico, a nugget of fool's gold — such are the clues available to the narrator of *The Smallest Objective* as she excavates for buried treasure in her family home.

Together, these objects belonging to several Jewish personalities afford an intriguing vantage point on 20th-century Montreal — from a Runyonesque character well-known by the city's gossip columnists to a Lithuanian botanist versed in the fossil record to a young woman whose newfound opportunities mirror the promise and ambiguities of the city itself. As the narrator struggles with her mother's failing memory and final decline, unexpected secrets are revealed and expired truths exposed.

**Here's what they said about *What Species of Creatures*:**

*"Fascinating ... Kirsch skillfully stitches together this scattered survey of European testimony and observations about encounters with New World animals with very challenging but rich prose ... With so few books in early Canadian history on the subject of human-animal relations, however, Kirsch's work is a very welcome contribution that should open the door for other scholars and writers to pursue this kind of research."*

— Sean Kheraj, *H-Net / Humanities and Social Sciences On-Line*

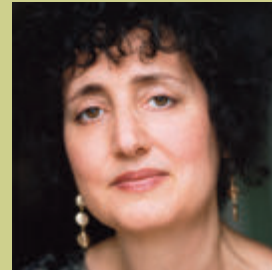
*"[O]ffers unexpected surprises in each chapter on almost every page ... This book is like no other I know, an imaginative assemblage of intriguing material on human and animal lives, woven together seamlessly to create mysterious tales. Sharon Kirsch has produced a unique, scholarly, and engaging chronicle of the early encounters between Europeans and the New World animals."*

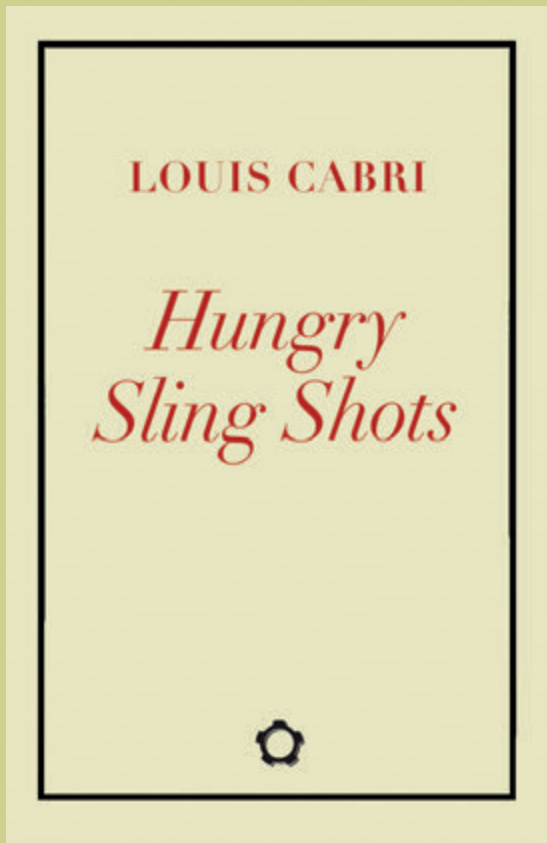
— Lynette Hart, *Anthrozoos*

**Sharon Kirsch** is the author of *What Species of Creatures* (2008), a book of creative non-fiction about first encounters between early settlers to North America and unfamiliar "beasts."

A writer and an editor, she has published fiction, narrative non-fiction, and journalism, most recently in *subTerrain* and *Room* magazines.

Sharon Kirsch is originally from Montreal and has lived in the US and the UK, the latter as a Commonwealth Scholar for postgraduate study in Middle English literature. She is a graduate of the Humber School for Writers Correspondence Program. She currently is based in Toronto. More about her can be found on [sharonkirsch.com](http://sharonkirsch.com).





# Hungry Sling Shots

**Louis Cabri**

Poetry :: Literature

128 pp

Trade paperback :: 6" x 9"

ISBN 978-1-55420-156-3

\$18 CAD :: \$16 USD

Publication date :: April 23, 2020

- Vancouver and Windsor book launches
- Advertising in *The Capilano Review*
- Targeted review copy distribution

Since his first book, *The Mood Embosser*, was published in 2001, Louis Cabri has established himself as one of the most distinctive, and entertaining, poets in Canada. Steeped in the transformative poetics of the post-New American Poetry world of L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E, Cabri has followed that impulse into a fresh terrain that is simultaneously familiar and disorientingly strange. *Hungry Sling Shots*, Cabri's fourth book-length work, extends his explorations into language / sensibility / intelligibility, and into the sheer sound (and silence) of the line to produce a suite of poems that return a picquant critique of the excess that stands in for contemporary normality.

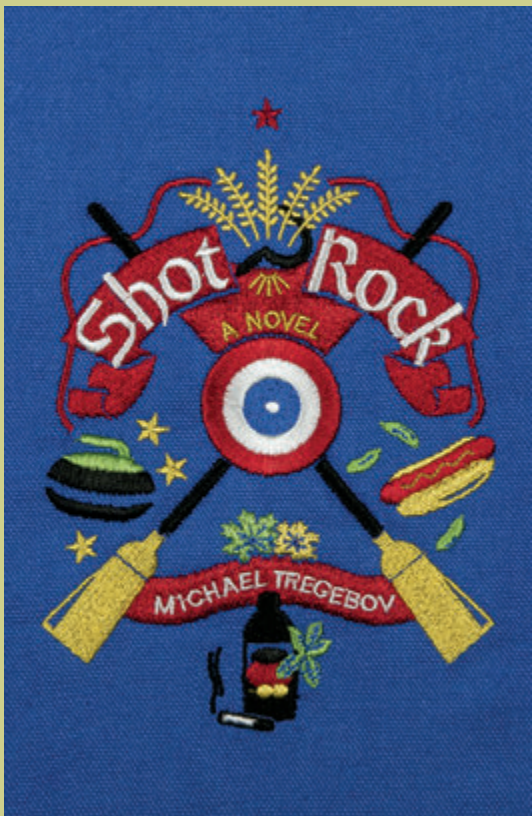
Original, in the original sense of the word (i.e., returning to the earliest examples of something), Cabri's recent work opens up the resonating chambers of constraints imposed by poetry conventions — most noticeably in the title sequence, “Hungry Sling Shots,” which hearkens to the French 17th century civil war and the widespread use of the triolet form — to make our oldest literary genre vibrate in new ways and in unexpectedly contemporary directions.

Predominant in Cabri's approach to the page is his consciousness of poetry as being, at its most satisfyingly salient, sound. For Cabri, more than most poets working today, meaning is all about how it sounds. In a live reading, his intonations work like the squeaks and farts of a perfectly tuned saxophone in the mouth and hands of a jazz musician. Could Louis Cabri be the Albert Ayler of contemporary poetry?

Louis Cabri has said about his work, “Fiction and non-fiction, more often than not, represent perceptions. Poetry involves more than representing perceptions. ... Poetry speaks to the mechanics of perception.”

**Louis Cabri** is a teacher (of poetry, theory, and creative writing, at the University of Windsor) and critic (his writing considers work by Bruce Andrews, Ted Greenwald, Harryette Mullen, Frank O'Hara, Catriona Strang, Fred Wah, Lissa Wolsak, Ezra Pound, and Louis Zukofsky). As well, he examines poetry's “social command” propounded by Osip Brik and Vladimir Mayakovsky, and the literary nonce-word). He is the author of *Posh Lust* (2014), *Poetryworld* (2011), and *The Mood Embosser* (2001), one of Small Press Distribution's Poetry Books of the Year. In addition, he is editor of *The False Laws of Narrative* by Fred Wah (2009) and wrote the Foreword to *Flow: Poems Collected and New* by Roy Miki (2019). Born in Montreal, he lives and writes in Windsor, Ontario.





# Shot Rock

**Michael Tregebov**

**Fiction**

**220 pp**

**Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"**

**ISBN 978-1-55420-153-2**

**\$22 CAD :: \$20 USD**

Published September 26, 2019

- Winnipeg Thin Air Festival 2019
- CBC's *Here and Now*, *Tuesday Book Club*
- Advertising in *BC Bookworld* and *Prairie Books Now*
- Vancouver and Burlington launches

Campus politics collide with curling club realities, releasing pent-up forces and triggering a chain reaction of unintended consequences. Blackie and his curling buddies find themselves whipped up by Blackie's university-age son to oppose the shut-down of their beloved Queen Victoria, Winnipeg's friendliest — and only Jewish — curling rink. Under the shadow of threat that this might be their last season ever, Blackie's foursome marches relentlessly towards the provincial bonspiel and the promise of glory.

*“Michael Tregebov has an ear for clever, fast-paced dialogue. Other reviewers have compared him favourably with Mordecai Richler and the colourfulness of his characters would strike any Richler fan as being motivated by the same sense of adoration for a Winnipeg of a certain era that Richler had for his early years growing up in Montreal ... Tregebov has captured so many of the sights and sounds of a bygone era that it is bound to bring a smile to the face of even the most jaded of Winnipeggers.”*

— Bernie Bellan, *The Jewish Post & News*

*“Michael Tregebov captures the flavour of an era as North-End Jewish curlers take on the nouveaux riches from the South End in a shareholders' battle to save Winnipeg's only Jewish curling club ... The club is fictitious, but Tregebov's third book, Shot Rock, is loaded with other Winnipeg landmarks; you don't have to know them to enjoy the story, but if you do, the narrative becomes far more personal.”*

— Gordon Arnold, *Winnipeg Free Press*

**Michael Tregebov** was born in 1954 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BA in English. His first book of poems, *Changehouse*, was published by Turnstone Press in Winnipeg in 1976. That same year he began an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. He received his MFA in Creative Writing in spring 1978, immediately after which he moved to Barcelona, where he has made his home ever since.

A teacher of translation, now retired, Tregebov has translated and dubbed Spanish travel programs and industrial American TV shows, including a hundred episodes of *Star Trek* (both generations) and *The Equalizer* into Catalan and Spanish, a million-plus words in corporate, tax and labour law and another million in chartered accountancy, as well as a book of essays (*Escribir y ser*) by Nadine Gordimer, and translations in areas stretching from art history to perfume.

In 2009, his novel *The Briss* was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (first novel category) and optioned for film. *The Briss* was followed by *The Shiva* in 2012. In 2015 Penguin Random House Lumen published his translation of, and prologue to, William Carlos Williams's *Kora in Hell* in their best-selling William Carlos Williams *Poesía Reunida*, chosen by *El País* as one of the best books released in Spain and Latin America in 2015. *Shot Rock* is his third novel. Michael Tregebov lives with Virginia, his wife of 39 years, in El Masnou, a Catalan coastal town just north of Barcelona.

Writing and Reading  
George Bowering



# Writing and Reading

Essays

**George Bowering**

Essays :: Criticism

176 pp

Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"

ISBN 978-1-55420-154-9

\$18 CAD :: \$16 USD

Publication date :: November 28, 2019

- Vancouver book launch
- Advertising in *BC Bookworld*, *The Capilano Review*, *Subterrain*, *Geist*
- Targeted review copy distribution



“Mainly I like the idea of the essay as a piece of writing. One often skims or skips essays in journals because the writing itself is not interesting. I don’t imagine that all readers will go gaga over my prose; but the nicest thing that bpNichol ever wrote about me was that my stories read like essays and my essays read like stories.”

In the course of a writing life that has spanned more than five decades and encompasses almost eighty books of fiction, poetry, history, and criticism he’s written and another thirty that he’s played an editorial role in, George Bowering has learned a thing or two about the craft.

*Writing and Reading* features thirty recent essays, ranging from a single paragraph to 12,000 words, spanning the range of the author’s curiosity, which includes collecting, difficulty, film, painting, photography, music, and Vancouver’s poets, from Apollinaire and Blaise Cendrars to the present day. Bowering writes perceptively about his encounters with texts, and writers, including David Bromige, Judith Fitzgerald, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Robert Kroetsch, Michael Ondaatje, Joe Rosenblatt, and every book he read in 1967, Canada’s centennial year.

Running through *Writing and Reading* is the theme of reading — and paying attention — and its centrality to any writing practice.

Born in 1935 and raised in the southern Okanagan town of Oliver, BC, **George Bowering** has won the Governor-General’s Award for both Poetry (in 1969, for *Rocky Mountain Foot*) and Fiction (in 1980, for *Burning Water*).

George Bowering was Canada’s first Parliamentary Poet-Laureate, and is a member of the Order of Canada as well as the Order of British Columbia. His most recent books include *No One* (fiction, 2018), *Ten Women* (short stories, 2015), *The World, I Guess* (poetry, 2015), and, with George Stanley, *Some End / West Broadway* (poetry, 2018).



PHOTO: MARK WUSHET



# I Am a City Still But Soon I Shan't Be

**Roger Farr**

Poetry :: Literature

102 pp

Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"

ISBN 978-1-55420-152-5

\$18 CAD :: \$16 USD

Published September 19, 2019

*Hailed by the Call as I stepped across  
Venables at Clark following a transverse  
line*

*like all the other commodities circulating  
aimlessly*

*I drifted along corrugated steel walls  
sun burning every body every building  
every form*

*cash exploding from crowns of distant  
towers*

*occupied by the rentiers in this  
haemopolis of*

*arteries and conduits branching out  
centrifugally.*

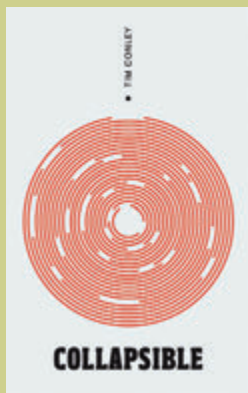
In nine Cantos — spheres of hell — Roger Farr's *I Am a City Still But Soon I Shan't Be* metabolizes the modernist long poem to provide a new, psychogeographical I-witness account of the post-Real city.

Avoiding the worn paths of the flâneur, Farr works with “pre-conceptualist” footage of Vancouver shot in 1973, later discovered in a dream. New York becomes an “elegant incubator” for the new avant-gardes, who are preparing for another civil war. Berlin is a nightclub, or a mall, that “kettles” its negations. Nanaimo is a necropolis seen through a lens held by the hand of a dead poet.

Meanwhile, a statue of Artemis explodes from the streets in Siracusa, setting off a riot during the 2010 Olympics.

Throughout, bodies fail to align with their coordinates. Urban streams, floods of capital, and other libidinal “flows” offer multiple routes through the contemporary metropolis.

**Roger Farr** is the author of *Surplus* (2006), *Means* (2012), and *IKMQ* (2012), a finalist for the 2013 BC Book Prize in Poetry. He lives on an island the size of Manhattan, in Snuneymuxw territory.



## Collapsible

### Tim Conley

Fiction

180 pp

Trade paperback :: 5" x 8"

ISBN 978-1-55420-151-8

\$18 CAD :: \$16 USD

Published February 28, 2019

The short story form is unambiguously un-dead in this new album of thirty fictions from writer Tim Conley, coming at the reader in a variety of shapes and guises running the gamut from elliptical micro-fictions to tales of the inexplicable.

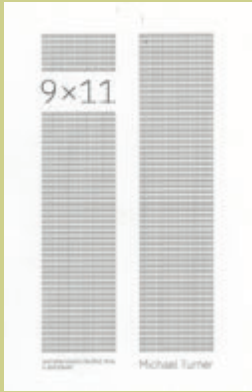
*“Outstanding ... Conley’s combinations of surreal plot developments and silly comedy alongside often sincere, even sentimental character moments has drawn comparisons to Franz Kafka and Italo Calvino, but a better comparison might be the rarely read but stunningly brilliant Robert Walser, whose microfictions remain some of the greatest in history. At his best, Conley recalls Walser’s strange, quiet, near-mystical and somewhat mystifying moments. ... electric and exciting, dense but breezy, and exceptionally well-crafted.”*

— Jonathan Ball, *Winnipeg Free Press*

*“Conley marshals a succession of anti-realist tactics to examine the nature of human consciousness and its fragility in a world of shifting signifiers and unstable referents. ... Though there is a political undercurrent at work here, Conley’s stories are never so determined as to suggest a rigid or incontestable meaning; the title of the collection can refer to the form and function of the short story itself, which the author delights in stretching, reducing, altering, or contorting in pursuit of idiosyncratic modes of expression.”*

— Steven W. Beattie, *Quill & Quire*

**Tim Conley** is the author of several collections of short fiction, including *Unless Acted Upon* (Mansfield Press, 2019) and *Dance Moves of the Near Future* (New Star, 2015), as well as poetry and criticism, including *Useless Joyce: Textual Functions, Cultural Appropriations* (University of Toronto Press, 2017). He teaches modernist and contemporary literature at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.



# 9x11

and other poems like  
Bird, Nine, x, and Eleven

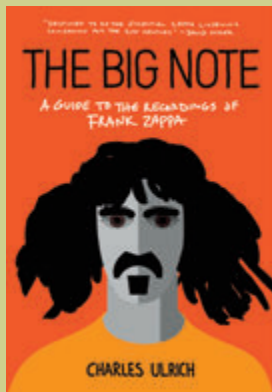
## Michael Turner

Poetry :: Literature  
86 pp  
Trade paperback :: 5.5" x 8.5"  
ISBN 978-1-55420-150-1  
\$18 CAD :: \$16 USD  
Published September 11, 2018

How you view 21st century life depends largely on the view from your place, which depends on where you can afford to live. In this suite of texts and poems written over twenty years that span the infamous towers, Michael Turner drops in to see what condition his condition is in, a subject whipped into insistence by the rhythms that shape his city, his neighbourhood, his universe.

In her *Globe and Mail* review of Turner's "startlingly straightforward and minimalist" *8x10* (2009), Zoe Whittall concludes: "*8x10* is an unsettling and daring work, a tangible symbol of our anxious world and the stark emotional devastation of war. I hope Turner starts a trend in Canadian literature, because Canada needs more writers like him."

*"Reading Michael Turner's extraordinary 9x11 I was reminded of Christa Wolf's Accident, how global crisis intensifies the daily — except that in Turner's / our current state disruption has become the new norm. Disruption both terrifies and excites the poet — the stacked monotony of skyscrapers is broken both by the horror of people leaping out of buildings and by Mallarme's thrilling abandonment of vertical structure in "Un coup de dés jamais n'abolira le hasard" (1897). All the reflections and contemplative rhymes add up to a holographic text that begs repeated reading. "9x11" is a date, a disaster, and the measurements of the poet's room. For Turner architecture is a form of poetic divination, and poetry is a form of architecture. Living in a city, community is inevitable — coffee house / apartment building / poetry peers — and despite his caution, Turner's tense heart proves very big."*  
— Dodie Bellamy



## The Big Note A Guide to the Recordings of Frank Zappa

**Charles Ulrich**

Music  
800 pp  
Trade paperback :: 6.75" x 9.75"  
ISBN 978-1-55420-146-4  
\$45 CAD :: \$39 USD  
Published May 8, 2018

The product of more than fifteen years of research, *The Big Note* is the complete guide to the music of Frank Zappa.

Based on careful listening to authorized and unauthorized recordings, and drawing on hundreds of interviews with Frank Zappa and numerous musicians who worked with him, *The Big Note* provides detailed commentary on 1,663 tracks spanning 100 albums recorded over 35 years, backed up by 1,773 citations.

*"Wow. This is it. This is the big one.<sup>1</sup> A fantastic achievement.<sup>1</sup> Fantastic. I've been a Zappa listener/scholar for 30+ years, and I'm learning new things.<sup>2</sup> Just unbelievable!<sup>1</sup> Unbelievably phenomenally excellent!!!<sup>3</sup> The final say in the matter of Frank Zappa's music.<sup>4</sup> Indispensable.<sup>5</sup> Unparalleled.<sup>5</sup> Simply amazing. This book is a must buy for any Zappa fan.<sup>2</sup> Essential.<sup>5</sup> Big, beautiful and smells great.<sup>2</sup> I find it enhances my listening experience and comprehension.<sup>3</sup> It is a monster.<sup>1</sup> You will learn more about Zappa and his music from this book than from anything else ever written.<sup>2</sup> Extraordinary ... not*

*only for Zappa fans. Musicians of all genres will benefit from his approach to creating complex arrangements with uncommon devices and instruments.<sup>6</sup> A must-have!<sup>1</sup> An absolute must-own.<sup>3</sup> Will thrill dedicated musicians and musicologists alike.<sup>7</sup> Worth every dollar.<sup>1</sup> You need this book!<sup>5</sup> Seems mandatory to me.<sup>1</sup> Charles Ulrich has done a great service to Zappa fans everywhere.<sup>5</sup> Damn, is all I can say.<sup>1</sup> I simply have no words!<sup>1</sup> Words fail me.<sup>1"</sup>*

1. Zappateers.com forums
2. Steve Hoffman Music Forums
3. Zappa.com forums
4. John Corcelli, Critics at Large
5. Amazon customer reviews
6. BC Bookworld
7. Georgia Straight

**Charles Ulrich** (BA, Pomona College; PhD, UCLA) taught linguistics at ten universities in the United States and Canada. Since 1994 he has been active in the on-line Zappa fan community — on [alt.fan.frank-zappa](http://alt.fan.frank-zappa), [zappateers.com](http://zappateers.com), and his own website, [The Planet Of My Dreams](http://ThePlanetOfMyDreams). He lives in Vancouver, BC.



# if wants to be the same as is

Essential Poems of David Bromige

Edited by **Jack Krick and Bob Perelman**

Introduction by George Bowering

Poetry :: Literature

582 pp

Trade paperback :: 6.75" x 9.75"

ISBN 978-1-55420-134-1

\$45 CAD :: \$35 USD

Published June 21, 2018

With essays by **George Bowering,**  
**Bob Perelman,** and **Ron Silliman**

**David Bromige** (1933 – 2009), a Canadian born in London, resident of California after the early 1960s, produced a body of work that evades efforts at categorization. *if wants to be the same as is* presents the essential poetry and poetics of the essential David Bromige for a new generation of his readers.

*“There is no more brilliantly inventive poet writing in the United States at this time ... a poet of enormous intellect, humor and innovation who is always shifting out from under the solutions of the last book and posing new questions and linguistic possibilities for a song.”*

— Kathleen Fraser

*“He is among the three or four most significant writers of his generation ... He is an outstanding story-teller, and ... at the same time, he is capable of great lyrical moments in which the full resonance of ear and eye are brought to a focus ... uncompromising in his commitment to the full complexity of poetry as a language art.”*

— Michael Davidson

*“Outstanding in this generation out of Canada for me has been the work of David Bromige ... He has gained the art and language in which he brings his readers deeper than any consideration of a personality to the awareness of a living man.”*

— Robert Duncan



## **Mudflat Dreaming** **Waterfront Battles and the Squatters** **Who Fought Them in 1970s Vancouver**

**Jean Walton**

Transmontanus 23

History :: Cultural studies

204 pp

Trade paperback :: 6.75" x 9.75"

ISBN 978-155420-149-5

\$24 CAD :: \$20 USD

Published October 4, 2018

*Mudflat Dreaming* tells the story of two communities on Vancouver's waterfront fringes in the 1970s — the Maplewood Mudflat squatters' community on the North Shore, and Surrey's embattled Bridgeview neighbourhood.

*"Mudflat Dreaming is a wonderfully evocative account of the varied ways in which an alternative Vancouver was imagined, constructed and lived by its residents in the 1970s. From waterfront squatting to protests over basic amenities, the book recovers a city that has long since disappeared but whose history remains as important as ever. A timely and urgent reminder of what it means to think about and inhabit cities differently."*

— Alexander Vasudevan, author of *The Autonomous City: A History of Urban Squatting*

*"Jean Walton's lively account of two quite different 1970s communities resisting a growing "culture of cement" appears at a time when Vancouver's neighbourhoods are being eaten up by that same cement. Part oral history, part film archive research, Mudflat Dreaming resuscitates the spirit of opposition to*

*uniformity and profit-making at the expense of those who recycle, self-build, and live by water."*

— Daphne Marlatt

*"Squatters, shackers, beachfront bohemians, whatever you want to call them, they've been a neglected chapter of Vancouver's history for too long. Now Jean Walton has rescued two of these communities from obscurity in her vivid and thoughtful account."*

— Daniel Francis

**Jean Walton** teaches English and film studies at the University of Rhode Island. She spent her teenage years in North Surrey, where her family operated Wally's Motel.

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