

# CAITLIN PRESS

FALL 2023

*featuring*

LOU ALLISON & JANE WILDE

KRISTIN MILLER    GEOFF MYNETT

KEIKO HONDA    DEBI GOODWIN

BARBARA PELMAN

CHRISTOPHER LEVENSON

MEGHAN FANDRICH

WHERE URBAN  
MEETS RURAL

& HOME OF DAGGER EDITIONS

# GUMBOOT GUYS

## NAUTICAL ADVENTURES ON BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NORTH COAST

EDITED BY LOU ALLISON & COMPILED BY JANE WILDE

FROM THE EDITORS OF *GUMBOOT GIRLS* AND  
*DANCING IN GUMBOOTS COMES GUMBOOT GUYS*,  
THE FIRST-HAND STORIES OF A GENERATION OF MEN  
WHO ANSWERED THE CALL OF THE SEA

**G**umboot Girls and Dancing in Gumboots chronicled the fascinating and inspiring stories of the 1970's migration of women seeking a new way of life on BC's West Coast, from Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii to the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island. But what about the men who came in search of their own adventure, who became smitten with boats and the smell of salty air? Now, *Gumboot Guys* joins the two previous collections in chronicling this exciting decade, when all seemed possible.

Stories of buying, fixing, building and running boats; learning to navigate the ocean's many moods; describing the abundance, and subsequent decline, of salmon stocks; and many, many tales of the unpredictable nature of life on the sea paint a vivid picture of the thrilling, adventurous and occasionally dangerous world awaiting these men. The constant current running through each of these stories is community—the guidance of experienced mentors, the encouragement from fellow adventure-seekers and the generous support of partners and families. These stories serve as a time capsule commemorating an era of hope, fortitude and freedom.

**LOU ALLISON** moved to the West Coast from Ottawa in the western migration of the 1970s. She settled in Dodge Cove after having children, working all over the North Coast, and living on boats and float houses with her partner, Jeremiah, while completing her English degree by the light of a kerosene lamp. Lou now works full time at the Prince Rupert Library and is devoted to all things related to books.

**JANE WILDE** moved to the West Coast in the early 1970s from Guelph, Ontario. She resided on Haida Gwaii from 1976–79 and, after attending nursing school, returned to Prince Rupert as a maternity nurse. For thirty-five years, Jane worked in health care in rural communities, living in Dodge Cove and Prince Rupert with her partner, Richard. She relocated to the Comox Valley in the fall of 2016.



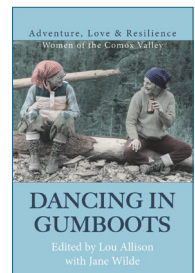
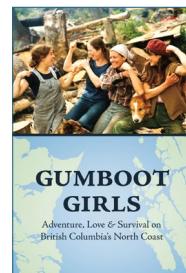
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Also by Lou Allison & Jane Wilde:



# KNOTS AND STITCHES

## COMMUNITY QUILTS ACROSS THE HARBOUR

BY KRISTIN MILLER

COURTESY KRISTIN MILLER



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**KRISTIN MILLER** has created hundreds of art quilts and custom quilts, and has involved others in group-made friendship quilts and protest quilts. She is the author of *The Careless Quilter: Decide-as-You-Sew, Design-as-You-Go Quiltmaking*, and contributed a chapter to *Gumboot Girls: Adventure, Love & Survival on the North Coast of British Columbia*. She lives in Powell River, BC, and enjoys reading, gardening, boating, dogs and red wine.

AMIDST THE TURMOIL OF LOSS AND THE HARSH WEST COAST TERRAIN, FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNITY FLOURISH IN THIS LIFE-CELEBRATING MEMOIR

In 1979, Kristin Miller and her partner hitched a ride on a fishboat to a remote community across the harbour from Prince Rupert, BC. Entranced with the wild beauty of the rocky inlet, they bartered a handmade quilt for half the price of a sturdy skiff and bought a ramshackle cabin for \$3,500. Together, they imagined settling down in this rustic paradise. But that dream fell apart and Kristin moved in alone. Bereft, angry, and in fragile health after a disastrous failed pregnancy and a faltering marriage, she sought refuge in the cabin to harbour her grief.

The support of the open-hearted hippies, hermits, fishermen, and adventurous women living across the harbour helped Kristin heal physically and emotionally. Friends gave advice about storms, fog, and outboard motors, and though often scared, Kristin became stronger and braver and grew to love the sea. The women taught her to can salmon and beachcomb for firewood. She taught them to quilt.

Women around the harbour made quilts together to honour births, weddings, and friendships, and to comfort the ill and the dying. The quilt tops crisscrossed the harbour in plastic bags, with each woman adding colours, patterns and images. Making baby quilts with her friends softened Kristin's grief at being childless. Over the decades, the quilting circle expanded to include over a hundred women, some kids, and a few men. Many quilters have now left the North Coast, but they still make quilts together—today, they have created almost 130 communal quilts.

*Knots and Stitches: Community Quilts Across the Harbour* is a touching memoir about the power of community, and a celebration of the stalwart women who honed their nautical skills, fell in and out of love, celebrated life's milestones by making quilts together, and thrived in a harsh and sometimes dangerous environment.

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# THE EVENTFUL LIFE OF PHILIP HANKIN

## WORLD-WIDE TRAVELLER AND WITNESS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA'S EARLY HISTORY

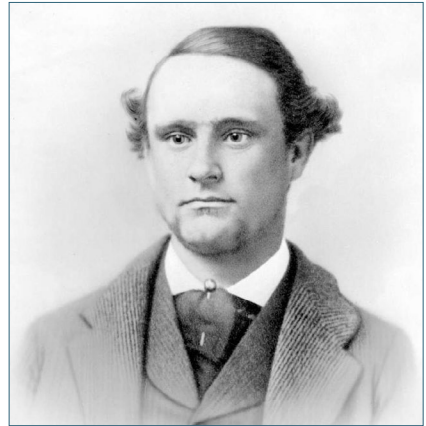
BY GEOFF MYNETT

**BESTSELLING AUTHOR GEOFF MYNETT PRESENTS  
THE FASCINATING LIFE OF PHILIP HANKIN, BC'S OWN  
PROVERBIAL "ROLLING STONE" AND WITNESS TO THE  
SHAPING OF A PROVINCE IN FLUX**

Today's explorers of Vancouver Island may be familiar with the name "Hankin"—Hankin Island lies off the coast of Ucluelet within the famous Pacific Rim National Park; Mount Hankin looms amidst the dense forests of central Vancouver Island; and nestled in the San Juan Islands, Hankin Point sits on the easternmost tip of Shaw Island. The man behind the name is Philip Hankin, a little-known but fascinating figure who led an eventful life marked by immense swings in fortune.

In 1849, at just thirteen years old, Hankin, then in England, entered the Royal Navy and engaged in campaigns to suppress the trade of enslaved people on the coasts of Africa. His naval career brought him to Vancouver Island in 1858, where he helped survey the coastline on the Royal Navy's HMS *Plumper* and *Hecate*. In his journeys on the Indigenous homelands of the Nuu-chah-nulth and Huu-ay-aht Peoples in what is now Vancouver Island, and the Lummi, WSÁNEĆ and Tulalip Peoples to the south, Hankin learned several Indigenous languages, a skill that would prove pivotal in his career. After leaving the navy at twenty-eight, he walked from Yale to Barkerville to try his hand at prospecting. In this, despite family connections to Billy Barker, he failed miserably. Broke, he returned to Victoria, where within months he was appointed Superintendent of Police for the Colony of Vancouver Island, but the merger of the colonies in 1866 left him again jobless. He served as colonial secretary in British Honduras and also in British Columbia. Hankin was at the centre of BC politics in the years before BC's accession to Canada in 1871.

In his memoirs, Hankin reflected on his eventful life: "I have had many ups and downs and have travelled several times around the world... although I have been somewhat of a rolling stone, yet, I have gathered some moss." In *The Eventful Life of Philip Hankin*, bestselling author and historian Geoff Mynett tells the story of the adventurous and often tumultuous life of this resilient "rolling stone."



COURTESY BC ARCHIVES

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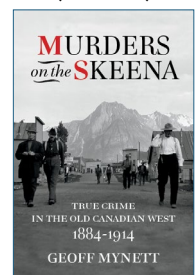
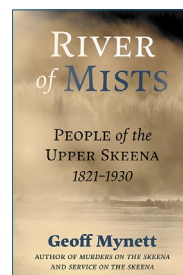
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Also by Geoff Mynett:



WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

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# ACCIDENTAL BLOOMS

## A MEMOIR

BY KEIKO HONDA

ARTWORK BY KEIKO HONDA



A PROFOUND PERSONAL STORY OF LOSS AND UPHEAVAL, SELF-DISCOVERY AND HEALING, *ACCIDENTAL BLOOMS* IS A DEEPLY MOVING MEMOIR CELEBRATING THE UNPREDICTABLE BEAUTY OF LIFE

Keiko Honda is living a successful, busy life as a scientist of cancer epidemiology at Columbia University in New York City when one morning she abruptly loses all strength in her legs. She phones a friend to care for her twenty-month-old daughter and rushes to the hospital. Within hours, she can barely breathe. She soon discovers she is permanently paralyzed from the chest down due to a rare autoimmune disease with a frequency of approximately one case per million per year. Suddenly, she's that one. As Keiko struggles for life, she learns through lived experience the importance of community to healing, one of her prior research interests at Columbia.

Seeking a wheelchair-accessible home closer to nature in which to raise her daughter, Keiko moves to Vancouver, Canada. She starts hosting informal artist salons, forms a mutually supportive group of artists and art-loving neighbours and then, surprisingly, becomes an artist herself. While her illness forced her departure from a career she spent twelve years building, it would ultimately provide the opportunity to live a life dedicated to community, friendship and art, as well as the continually evolving process of self-discovery as a mother, Japanese immigrant, survivor and artist.

When painting with watercolours, artists sometimes produce unintentional, unpredictable eruptions of colour that flow from one region to another across a too-wet surface. Keiko feels a camaraderie with these "accidental blooms," as she calls them, because she, too, has had to plunge across unfamiliar borders and discovered beauty along the way. *Accidental Blooms* is a story of profound transformation that demonstrates how tragedy can teach one to see anew.

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**KEIKO HONDA** is a scientist, writer, community organizer and painter. She holds a PhD in public health from New York University. After moving to Vancouver in 2009, Keiko started hosting artist salons, for which she was awarded the City of Vancouver's Remarkable Women award in 2014. She founded the Vancouver Arts Colloquium Society and teaches the aesthetics of co-creation in the Liberal Arts and 55+ Program at Simon Fraser University. She lives in Vancouver, BC.

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# RAINS, AT TIMES HEAVY

A NOVEL

BY DEBI GOODWIN

THROUGH VIVID LANDSCAPES AND COMPLEX CHARACTERS, *RAINS, AT TIMES HEAVY* EXPLORES HOW ONE MOMENT, CHAOTIC AND DESTRUCTIVE AS A STORM, CAN SPIRAL THROUGH THE GENERATIONS OF A SINGLE FAMILY

Linden Kemp's grandmother tells her: *Old age is a privilege our men never got to know.*

Linden's grandfather drowned trying to save others when Hurricane Hazel lashed an unprepared Toronto. The hippie father she never knew died in the monsoons of India. Her husband slipped from life on the black ice of freezing rain. In her work as a climatologist, Linden knows the world faces more natural disasters. This knowledge and her legacy of death darken her view of the future.

When a letter, held back by her grandmother, reveals her father had a second child who lives in California, Linden travels to Death Valley, the driest place on the continent and a cherished spot she visited often with her husband. There, in the sparseness of the desert, she seeks her half-brother and answers to the mystery of her father's abandonment. She says goodbye to her husband and vows never to rely on anyone else ever again. But weather still has a lesson to teach her: life must still be lived fully in the calm between storms.

Through vivid landscapes and complex characters, *Rains, At Times Heavy* explores how one moment, one trauma, can spiral through the generations until a single person steps bravely into its path.

**DEBI GOODWIN** is the author of two non-fiction books: *Citizens of Nowhere* (Doubleday, 2010/Anchor 2011) a journalistic account of following Somali refugees from their camps in Kenya through their first year in Canada, and *A Victory Garden for Trying Times* (Dundurn Press, 2019), a memoir of creating a garden in the year of her husband's cancer treatments and death. For more than twenty years, she was CBC television producer at The Journal, CBC Newsworld and The National. For ten years she produced international documentaries as well as documentaries at home on environmental and social issues, and the arts, winning several awards for her work. Debi currently lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



ARUN KAPUR PHOTO

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FICTION

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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# ABSENCE OF WINGS

## POEMS

BY ARLEEN PARE

CHRIS FOX PHOTO



AWARD-WINNING POET ARLEEN PARE'S LATEST COLLECTION, *ABSENCE OF WINGS*, IS BOTH AN INTIMATE FAMILY PORTRAIT AND A PUBLIC DOCUMENTATION OF HOW WE, AS A SOCIETY, CAN FAIL TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

*Absence of Wings* depicts the extraordinary and tragically foreshortened life of A.—Paré's niece, Brazilian, adopted, racialized, and living with multiple mental health diagnoses. In her deft and clear poetics, accompanied by documentary pieces in the tradition of C.D. Wright's *One with Others*, Paré is both witness to and emotionally engaged in the life and death of A. The result is deep and heart-felt, both factual and fictional, poetry and prose, holding its subject, A., heart-close and 3,000 miles away. *Absence of Wings* unfolds on many levels; it embraces the private and public spheres; it is as intimate as family, as worldly as the public and personal politics that surround each life. It both observes and embraces, always with the important question of the world's unprotected children in mind.

**ARLEEN PARÉ** is a writer with eight collections of poetry, based in Victoria, BC. She has been short-listed for the BC Dorothy Livesay BC Award for Poetry and has won the American Golden Crown Award for Poetry, the Victoria Butler Book Prize, a CBC Bookie Award, and a Governor Generals' Award for Poetry.

### POETRY

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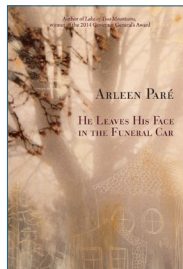
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POETRY / Women Authors

Also by Arleen Paré:



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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# A BRIEF AND ENDLESS SEA

## POEMS

BY BARBARA PELMAN

AWARD-WINNING POET BARBARA PELMAN PRESENTS  
A LIFE LIVED IN POETRY, DELVING INTO THE SMALL  
MOMENTS AND SPACES CONTAINING THE GREATEST  
OFFERINGS OF LOVE, HOPE AND POSSIBILITY

Born out of waiting out the lockdown during the early days of the pandemic, Barbara Pelman's *A Brief and Endless Sea* explores the concept of 'gaps': those moments of nothingness that are paradoxically full of potential. Many of the poems are rooted in Jewish tradition: the Angel Purah who cuts the ties between soul and body; the prophet Isaiah's words of comfort; the concept of "Tsimtsum," a withdrawal in order to create space for something new. The poems in *A Brief and Endless Sea* reach toward a potential built from seeming emptiness; Pelman mines the depths, taking us to difficult places—the dissolution of a marriage, caring for a parent with dementia. But she doesn't leave us there, waiting. Using the power of words to map a route out, *A Brief and Endless Sea* pulls us toward life in all of its vibrant details—the simple beauty of a small garden of tomatoes and roses, the pleasures of teaching English classes, long walks with a grandson, and encounters with spirituality. For Pelman, there is comfort in the making of a poem and in the "smallest life you can love." Like the glosa form she turns to often, something small transforms into something larger, expansive. In *A Brief and Endless Sea*, the ordinary becomes extraordinary, and waiting in itself presents fertile ground for hope and possibility.

**BARBARA PELMAN** has an MA in Literature from the University of Toronto, and lives in Victoria, BC. She taught high school and university English courses for three decades and is now retired. She has three books of poetry: *One Stone* (Ekstasis Editions, 2005), *Borrowed Rooms* (Ronsdale Press, 2008) and *Narrow Bridge* (Ronsdale Press, 2017), and a chapbook *Aubade Amalfi* (Rubicon Press, 2016). Many of her poems have been published in literary journals and anthologies, and her glosa "Nevertheless" won the Malahat Review Poetry Contest in 2018. She is an active member of Victoria's poetry community, assisting at Planet Earth Poetry and conducting workshops. She is a frequent traveller to Vancouver to visit her mother, daughter and grandson.



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"Barbara Pelman writes, 'And seldom is there comfort,' yet these poems, reaching back into the past and tentatively touching the future, do comfort the reader with their tenderness, wisdom, and grace."

—Lorna Crozier

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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL



# MOORINGS

## POEMS

BY CHRISTOPHER LEVENSON

OONAGH BERRY PHOTO



AWARD-WINNING POET CHRISTOPHER LEVENSON  
RETURNS WITH HIS FOURTEENTH COLLECTION  
*MOORINGS*, A PROFOUND EXPLORATION OF  
AGEING, LOSS AND FRIENDSHIP

*Moorings*, the fourteenth collection from award-winning poet Christopher Levenson, is a profound meditation on loss and ageing. “It is an intricate business, growing old,” posits the speaker in the titular poem. “Though I once had a photographic memory,” the poet reminisces, “those negatives are lost, and will not develop.” Time and old age make room for loss, but so does greed—“with time language disintegrates... lost to dementia ... speech taken over by corporate empires, unique ways of feeling lost...” Moving from memories of childhood and artistic tributes to frustrated critiques of capitalism balanced with doses of lighthearted wordplay, these poems celebrate the colour of life, yet are wary of the darkness that can be found inside and around us. Pulling from a wide range of experience and memories but always anchored in the particular and the familiar, the poems in *Moorings* confront ageing and death head-on, while also celebrating the spiritual sustenance of friendship and memories in our steadily changing world.

**CHRISTOPHER LEVENSON** was born in London, England, in 1934. After working in Germany and the Netherlands and studying in the US, he came to Canada in 1968 to teach English and creative writing at Carleton University in Ottawa. He is the author of thirteen books of poetry, most recently *Small Talk* (Silver Bow Publishing, 2022), and three chapbooks. He was the co-founder and first editor of *Arc* magazine. Levenson was the recipient of the inaugural Eric Gregory Award in 1960; the 1987 Archibald Lampman Award for *Arriving at Night*; and his collection *Night Vision* was short-listed for the Governor General’s award in 2014. Levenson reviews poetry for the *BC Review*, and lives in Vancouver, BC.

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POETRY / Subjects & Themes  
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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# BURNING SAGE

## POEMS FROM THE LYTTON FIRE

BY MEGHAN FANDRICH

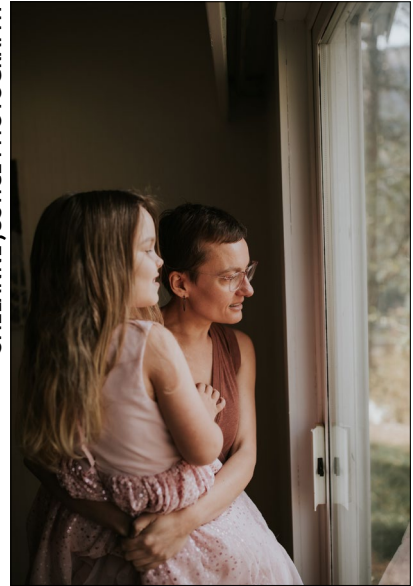
A PASSIONATE PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE LOSS OF A COMMUNITY, *BURNING SAGE* IS A DEEPLY TOUCHING, POIGNANT AND TIMELY DEBUT

On the day that Lytton, BC burned to the ground, Meghan Fandrich ran from the flames. She saw the village turn into a black pillar of smoke, and went home after a month-long evacuation to its ashes. Her house, on the edge of the fire, was saved; her community and her small business were not. Life as she knew it was gone, and somehow, in spite of the trauma and the ongoing onslaught of natural disasters, she had to keep going. Living. Surviving.

*Burning Sage* shares Meghan's deeply personal story of the fire, the ensuing trauma, and the path out of it. But it is also a human story, a universal story, of loneliness, fragility and beauty. The poems follow the arc of shock, fear, and anger, and the impossibility of single parenting in a burned-up town. They tell of a connection, a love, and the way that feeling understood can help us understand ourselves. The poems in *Burning Sage* share a vivid portrait of grief and heartbreak and, ultimately, of healing.

**MEGHAN FANDRICH** lives with her young daughter on the edge of Lytton, BC, the village that was destroyed by wildfire in 2021. She spent her childhood and much of her adult life there, in Nlaka'pamux Territory, where two rivers meet and sagebrush-covered hills reach up into mountains. For the past decade, she ran Klowa Art Café, a beloved and vibrant part of the community; Klowa was lost to the flames. *Burning Sage* is Meghan's debut poetry collection.

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604-337-4054 Ext. 401  
kimh@ampersandinc.ca

### QUEBEC

Sarah Gilligan  
phone: 416-703-0666 Ext. 129, toll-free: 866-736-5620  
fax: 416-703-4745 sarahg@ampersandinc.ca

### ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Kris Hykel  
phone: 416-703-0666 Ext. 127, toll-free: 866-736-5620  
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