

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY



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# COAST to COAST

*CANADIAN STORIES, POETRY, NON-FICTION & DRAMA*



REFLECTIONS IN LITERATURE

EDITED BY JAMES BARRY

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 INTRODUCTION

*Coast to Coast* presents a panoramic view of Canadiana "A Mare Usque Ad Mare" in poem, song, story, drama, and essay.

Canada, the country with the largest land mass in the world, features very diverse landscapes: Newfoundland, the rocky island, Cape Breton, Annapolis Valley, the Laurentians, the Great Lakes, Red River Valley, the Prairies, the foothills, the Rockies, Okanagan Valley, the Pacific islands, and the great northern tundra. The diversity of our landscape is mirrored in the diversity of our people. This is our pride; this is our strength.

Canadian author Margaret Atwood states, "Literature is not only a mirror; it is also a map, a geography of the mind. Our literature is one such map." The selections in *Coast to Coast* tell us who we are, where we live, and what it means to be Canadian. We hope you find something of yourself, of the Canadian experience, in these selections.






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BY FRED WAH

---

*my father hurt-  
ing at the table  
sitting hurting  
at supertime  
deep inside very  
far down inside  
because I can't stand the ginger  
in the beef and greens  
he cooked for us tonight  
and years later tonight  
that look on his face  
appears now on mine  
my children  
my food  
their food  
my father  
their father  
me mine  
the father  
very far  
very very far  
inside*



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Kristin ANDRYCHUK** is a poet from Kingston, Ontario, whose work has been published in various literary magazines. Her poems evolve out of entries in the journal she keeps.

**Margaret ATWOOD** (1939-) published her first book of poems in 1961, and since then she has produced over thirty additional works of poetry, short stories, novels, and criticism. Atwood's commitment to a variety of social causes—feminism, freedom of expression, resistance to political oppression—is clear in her writing.

**The BARENAKED LADIES** is a band from Scarborough, Ontario made up of John and Andy Creeggan, Steven Page, Ed Robertson, and Tyler Stewart. The group became popular with their hit single "If I Had a Million Dollars," which appeared on the album *Gordon*.

**James BARRY** (1939-) is a teacher who lives in Toronto, Ontario. He is an enthusiastic collector and compiler of poetry and other literature and is a poet himself. The numerous anthologies he has edited are used in schools across Canada.

**Laura B. BERTON** (1878-1967) moved to Dawson City in 1907 to teach school. She had two children, Lucy and Pierre. In her autobiography, *I Married the Klondike*, she depicts life in the Yukon early in the twentieth century during the gold rush.

**Earle BIRNEY** (1904-) was born in Calgary and as a young man worked as a travelling labourer in the Rockies. Over his long career he has not only been an important and award-winning writer, but also an influential teacher of literature and creative writing.

**Neil BISSOONDATH** (1955-) was born in Trinidad and immigrated to Canada in 1973, taking up residence in Quebec. He has published one novel, *A Casual Brutality*, and two collections of short stories, *Digging Up the Mountains* and *On the Eve of Uncertain Tomorrows*.

**Christie BLATCHFORD** was born in Noranda, Quebec. She graduated from the journalism program at Ryerson in Toronto in 1973. She wrote a sports column for the *Globe and Mail* for four years and has been the Lifestyle columnist for the *Toronto Sun* since 1982.

**George BLONDIN** (1922-) is a Dene elder who has spent much of his life hunting and trapping around Fort Franklin, N.W.T. Realizing that the practice of storytelling is fading among the Dene, Blondin and his children have written the stories down and collected them in *When the World Was New: Stories from the Sabtu Dene*.

**Aleata BLYTHE** (1931-) was born in Dodsland, Saskatchewan. In addition to the work of farming and raising children, she has written two story books, two local history books, and has had her writing published in various magazines.

**Kate BRAID** (1947-), a Vancouver poet, is a carpenter by trade. Much of her poetry captures her experience in the predominantly male world of construction.

**Rosemary BROWN** (1930-) grew up in Jamaica and moved to Canada in 1950. She has had a long and varied career as a writer, lecturer, and politician working on behalf of feminism, human rights, and peace issues. In 1993 she was appointed High Commissioner of Ontario's Human Rights Commission. Her autobiography is called *Being Brown*.

**Ernest BUCKLER** (1908-1984) was born and raised in Dalhousie West, Nova Scotia. He moved to Toronto to finish his university education and work as an actuary, but after five years he returned to Nova Scotia, settling in Bridgetown. He is best known for his first novel, *The Mountain and the Valley* (1952), which is still regarded as a Canadian classic.

**Bonnie BUXTON** (1940-) is a freelance writer and editor who lives in Toronto. She has been writing since 1960 and her work appears regularly in magazines such as *Chatelaine* and *Canadian Living*. She writes most often on topics of concern to parents and children.

**Bliss CARMAN** (1861-1929) was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, but became famous in the United States, where he worked on several newspapers and magazines. "Vestigia" is typical of his poetic meditations concerning the relationship between nature and human spirituality.

**George Elliott CLARKE** (1960-), is a black Nova Scotian poet, whose ancestors settled in Nova Scotia in 1815. His second book of poetry, *Whylab Falls*, received the 1991 Archibald Lampman Award for Poetry. Clarke is currently a professor of English and Canadian Studies at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

**John Robert COLOMBO** (1936-), from Kitchener, Ontario, is an anthologist and editor. Probably his most famous work is *Colombo's Canadian Quotations*, a collection about and by Canadians. Colombo is also an editor of poetry and a poet himself.

**Stompin' Tom CONNORS** (1936-) was born in New Brunswick but is associated with P.E.I., where he was raised. He is renowned for his stomping foot and his rousing songs and also for his continued support for Canadian music and Canadian culture.

**Gene DAWSON** (1928-1980) taught university and was a part-time rancher and farmer.

**Mary Di MICHELE** (1949-) was born in Italy and came to Toronto in 1955 with her family. She is an established poet who has published several volumes, and is now writing a novel.

**Janice DINEEN** (1945-) has worked as a newspaper reporter and a bureau chief for *The Toronto Star*. She co-authored a book, *The Kin Trade*, that examined the availability of good daycare facilities and the problems associated with daycare.

**Chief Dan GEORGE** (1899-1981) became chief of the Squamish Band of Burrard Inlet, B.C. (where he was born) in 1951, and his career as an actor began eight years later. In movies such as *Little Big Man* he portrayed natives who were wise, and admirable, countering the negative stereotypes of natives that were common at the time.

**Warren GERARD** works in Toronto as staff writer for *The Toronto Star*.

**Leona GOM** (1946-) began her writing career as a poet and won a Canadian Authors Association Award for poetry in 1980. Recently she has devoted herself to writing novels. She grew up in Alberta on a secluded farm and now lives in Whiterock, B.C.

**Arthur HAILEY** (1920-) was born and raised in England, but immigrated to Canada in his late twenties and became a Canadian citizen. He has written several bestselling novels, including *Airport* and *Wheels*. From 1939-47 Hailey served in England's Royal Air Force as a flight lieutenant.

**Max HAINES** writes a popular newspaper column called "Crime Flashback," which features short, entertaining accounts of actual murders and other crimes. Haines began researching such matters as a hobby, but over the years his hobby became his livelihood. Haines was born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, but now lives in Toronto.

**Lawrence HILL** (1957-), who lives in Oakville, Ontario, is the author of the novel *Some Great Thing* and the children's history text *Trials and Triumphs: The Story of African-Canadians*. His short stories have appeared in various magazines and anthologies.

**Nancy HOLMES** (1959-), a resident of Calgary, Alberta, writes both fiction and poetry. Her work has appeared in a number of literary magazines.

**Isapo-MUXIKA** (c. 1830-1890), more commonly known as Crowfoot, grew up among the Blackfoot Indians in Alberta and became a diplomat. In 1865, he became chief of the Big Pipes Band, and later became one of the three chiefs of the Blackfoot.

**Vickie JENSEN** is a resident of Vancouver. She and her husband have produced over thirty books for schools, written in native languages, to preserve native culture for the future. In the book *Where the People Gather*, Jensen's photographs document the process by which Norman Tait and his crew created a totem pole in the Nisga'a tradition.

**Anne JEW** is a graduate of the University of British Columbia. Her monthly film and video column appears in *Discorder* magazine. She is currently scripting an educational film on racism for the National Film Board.

**Mike KAYE** was the bass player for the Tom Barlow Band, whose first album was called *Innocence Is Bliss*. Kaye is now on his own pursuing a songwriting career.

**W.P. KINSELLA** (1935-) was raised on a remote Alberta homestead, studying by correspondence until he was ten. He is best known for his tales about baseball, the most famous being his novel *Shoeless Joe*.

**Joy KOGAWA** (1935-) was born in Vancouver, B.C. and now lives in Toronto. She has written four books of poetry as well as the children's novel *Naomi's Road* and the award-winning novel *Obasan*. Her most recent novel is called *Itsuka*.

**Gary LAUTENS** (1928-1992) won the Leacock Medal for Humour in 1981 and 1984. A regular columnist for *The Toronto Star* since 1962, his columns have been published in a number of collections: *Laughing with Lautens*, *Take My Family—Please!*, and *No Sex Please... We're Married*. Lautens was the Managing Editor of the paper from 1982-1984.

**Roger LEMELIN** (1919-1992) was a popular and successful French-Canadian writer. In 1948 he published his second novel, *Les Plouffes*, which became a CBC television series in both French and English Canada. *The Plouffe Family* portrayed life among the urban working class in Quebec, an environment Lemelin was familiar with from his childhood.

**Alison LOHANS** immigrated to Canada in 1971 and now lives in Regina, Saskatchewan, where she teaches creative writing. Her books include *Who Cares About Karen?*, *Can You Promise Me Spring?* and a collection of short stories called *Laws of Emotion*.

**Judith MACKENZIE** lives in Nelson, British Columbia. "An Open Heart" was a letter written to Peter Gzowski, host of the CBC radio program *Morningside*.

**John MAGEE** (1922-1941) was an American who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940 and was killed in action at the age of nineteen.

**John McCRAE** (1872-1918), born in Guelph, Ontario, enlisted as a Canadian soldier near the outbreak of the war, even though he was forty-two and a successful doctor. In 1918 he died of pneumonia at an officer's hospital in France.

**Susan MICHALIKA** (1955-) was born in Toronto and now lives in Ottawa. In 1992, "Young Man's Folly" won first prize from among 3500 stories submitted from around the world to *The Toronto Star* annual short story contest.

**Ken MITCHELL** (1940-) was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and now teaches Canadian Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Regina. His books include *Everybody Gets Something Here* and *Wandering Rafferty*.

**Jimmy Patsauq NAUMEALUK** (1951-1984) grew up in Resolute Bay, Northwest Territories. After graduation, he worked for the Northern Quebec Inuit Association. In 1984, he froze to death on a fishing trip.



**Mark NICHOLS** (1937- ) is a Toronto-based journalist who has been a staff writer for *Macleans*' magazine since 1984. He has previously worked for Reuter's news agency, Canadian Press and *Time* magazine.

**Alden NOWLAN** (1933-1983) created poetry that is simple and powerful. His anecdotal style and interest in ordinary people and events have won him a wide audience. Nowlan was born in Nova Scotia and later settled in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

**Michael ONDAATJE** (1943- ) is a poet, author, and playwright who is currently a professor at York University in Toronto. He was born in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and came to Canada in 1962. His work includes *Collected Works of Billy the Kid*, *Running in the Family*, a fictional autobiography, and *There's a Trick with a Knife I'm Learning To Do: Poems 1963-1978*.

**Al PITTMAN** (1940- ) is the author of several books of poetry, and has also written drama and short stories. He lives in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland, where he works as a writer, editor, and teacher.

**Helen Fogwill PORTER** (1930- ) grew up and lives in St. John's, Newfoundland. Her writing, which includes short stories, poetry, plays, and reviews—has been published across Canada. Her most recent book is called *A Long and Lonely Ride*.

**Veronica ROSS** (1946- ) is now a Nova Scotian, although she was born in West Germany and grew up in Montreal. She writes short stories and novels, and her work has been widely published and acclaimed.

**Adolphe-Basile ROUTHIER** (1839-1920) had a successful legal career and was an important public figure in his day, but is especially known as the author of the French words to the Canadian national anthem; the music was composed by Calixa Lavallee. The music and the words were published together in 1880, though it is unclear which came first.

**Andy RUSSELL** (1915- ) has spent most of his life in the outdoors in rural areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In his books, he recounts his experiences trapping, fishing, hunting, and guiding.

**Duncan Campbell SCOTT** (1862-1946), worked hard to develop a kind of poetry that could capture the reality of Canada. His entire career was spent working for the Department of Indian Affairs and much of Scott's poetry draws on his experiences in the North and with native people. His *Collected Poems* were published in 1926.

**Edward SMITH** (1941- ) has had a successful career as a teacher and administrator. He is known in Newfoundland for his popular column entitled *The View from Here*, in which he describes his experiences and observations about life in a down-to-earth manner.

**Raymond SOUSTER** (1921-) holds an influential place in the development of Canadian poetry. In the 1940s and 50s he established a series of magazines that championed a new generation of writers. Souster's poetry is strongly associated with Toronto, his home city.

**Bruce STAGG** (1955-) is a teacher and playwright from Trinity Bay, Newfoundland. His one-act plays are rooted in Newfoundland experience and have won several awards.

**Maxine TYNES** (1949-) has been a lifelong resident of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. In 1988 she won the Milton Acorn People's Poet Award for *Borrowed Beauty*. She is on the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University, the first black Nova Scotian to hold that position.

**W. D. VALGARDSON** (1939-) won a prestigious award for his first novel, *Gentle Sinners*, but is best known as a short story writer. He grew up in Manitoba but now lives on Vancouver Island, where he teaches creative writing.


**Miriam WADDINGTON** (1917-) is an eminent writer, educator, and critic. She is the author of many books of poetry, a collection of short fiction, and a considerable body of scholarly writing. Waddington, now a resident of Toronto, was born in Winnipeg.

**Fred WAH** was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, grew up in British Columbia, and now teaches at the University of Calgary. He has published eleven books of poetry—*Waiting for Saskatchewan* won the Governor General's Award for Poetry in 1985.

**Enos D. WATTS** (1939-) is a poet and school teacher who lives in Stephenville, Newfoundland. His poetry has been widely published.

**Robert S. WEIR** (1858-1926) produced an English translation of Canada's national anthem. Twenty-eight years intervened between Routhier's original and Weir's translation. Weir's version is still used, although there have been minor changes over the years.

**Jim WONG-CHU** (1949-) was born in Hong Kong and came to Canada as a child. He is a founding member of a Chinese-Canadian radio program in Vancouver, where he works as a letter carrier for Canada Post. His first book of poetry is called *Chinatown Gbouts*.



## STUDENT VOICES

Chris Bodnar  
Shari Chudy  
Shaun Clark  
Shawn Karpinka  
Tariq Kassum  
Ian Miller

Kathy Morey  
Joel Pereira  
Scott M. Sandler  
Sharleen Weese  
Andrew Will

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