

## About the Cover

### McARTHUR & COMPANY

McArthur & Company celebrates its 10th anniversary year with great new fiction titles from Ian Rankin, William Gladstone and Bryce Courtenay and Canadians Louise Penny, Linda Holeman, Anne DeGrace, James W. Nichol, Kate Pullinger and Jean McNeil.

Our non-fiction leads include Aislin's *Shenanigans*, the 23rd edition of *Portfolio*, Anne Hines' *Parting Gifts*, Sean Connery's *Being A Scot*, *Northern Wilderness* from bushcraft expert Ray Mears, and Ervin Laszlo's *Worldshift 2012*, with forewords by Deepak Chopra and Mikhail Gorbachev.

We are pleased to participate in the first-ever CBA Summer Conference here in Toronto, and are certainly Happy To Be Here!

All the best for the fall season.



## Editor's Desk

Emily Sinkins



Considering the celebratory nature of this issue of *Canadianbookseller* (containing profiles of CBA Libris Awards 2009 nominees), and that I've no sweeping statements on the industry to offer, I thought I would use this column to pay tribute to you, the booksellers.

When I came into this job, it was for a short-term gig. Nine years, one regime collapse, five desk changes and ten Board presidents later, I'm still here. No doubt that suggests a lack of ambition on my part, but the real reason I've remained is because booksellers are the best people to work for. They say what they mean—good or bad—often with a dose of humour or wit (particularly in the case of the latter). And, while I realize that generalizing about independent booksellers seems self-defeating, what has surprised me (happily!) over the years is how much a membership comprised of distinctly different individuals shares.

For instance, independent booksellers are well read (duh!), therefore knowledgeable on all kinds of topics, therefore always interesting to talk to. And, they are often funny—gallows humour gets you through the dark days. Related: Independent booksellers are resilient and (a term oft used in these pages) “cautiously optimistic,” because, well, that's how you're still selling books.

And, despite the 'independent' moniker, CBA booksellers are collaborative and they are generous with their expertise and their time. I was telling a prospective bookseller who stopped by the office just the other day to purchase the *Introduction to Bookselling Manual* (the result of massive shared knowledge and cumulative book-

seller effort) what she could expect from CBA's Summer Conference, and she was mildly taken aback to hear how open, how collegial, how helpful booksellers are, as a group, when welcoming new Independents into the fold. CBA wouldn't have the tremendous roster of volunteers we do, without booksellers whose concern and commitment lie not just with their own stores or their own communities, but with the survival of the industry they belong to and believe in, on a national and international scale.

Personally, there are two traits I value greatly in people: a sense of humour and boundless curiosity. Most people would claim they possess both these traits and, I would argue, most people would be wrong. A good sense of humour shows intelligence and empathy and insight, occasional self-deprecation and a fundamental appreciation of the ridiculous—this kind of funny is not common. And curiosity, well humans are curious by nature, but it's stifled so often in modern life by a desire for security, sameness and the familiar—the unknown threatens our sense of well-being and, sometimes, superiority. So, maybe by curiosity I mean open-mindedness, but the fact remains that these admirable qualities are rare among the general population, yet common among booksellers.

Ultimately, owing to that combined intelligence, passion, generosity and belief in the transformative power of books, I think you do more for Canadian literary culture than even you (and certainly some of your suppliers) realize. So, thank you for that! **CBA**

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