

Extract from Annie Proulx, *The Shipping News*, Fourth Estate, 1993, pp 32,33

The aunt looked out, saw the blue land ahead, her first sight of the island in almost fifty years. Could not help tears.

"Comin' 'ome, eh!" said the man in the watch cap. "Yar, that's 'ow it takes you."

This place, she thought, this rock, six thousand miles of coast blind-wrapped in fog. Sunkers under wrinkled water, boats threading tickles between ice-scabbed cliffs. Tundra and barrens, a land of stunted spruce men cut and drew away.

How many had come here, leaning on the rail as she leaned now. Staring at the rock in the sea. Vikings, the Basques, the French, English, Spanish, Portuguese. Drawn by the cod, from the days when massed fish slowed ships on the drift for the passage to the Spice Isles, expecting cities of gold. The lookout dreamed of roasted auk or sweet berries in cups of plaited grass, but saw crumpling waves, lights flickering along the ship rails. The only cities were of ice, bergs with cores of beryl, blue gems within white gems, that some said gave off an odor of almonds. She had caught the bitter scent as a child.

Shore parties returned to ship blood-crusted with insect bites. Wet, wet, the interior of the island, they said, bog and marsh, rivers and chains of ponds alive with metal-throated birds. The ships scraped on around the points. And the lookout saw shapes of caribou folding into fog.

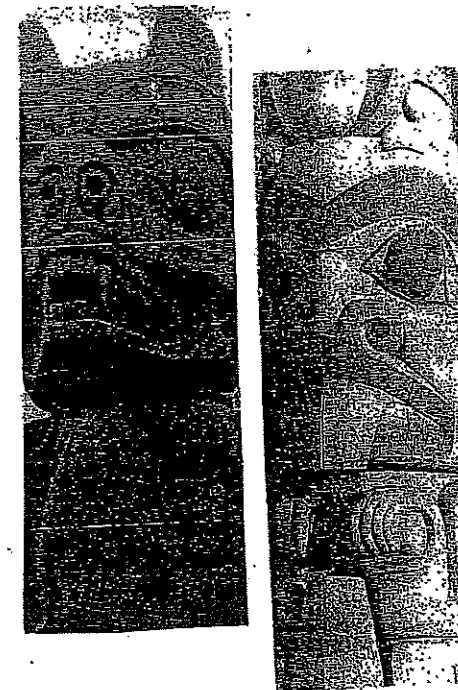
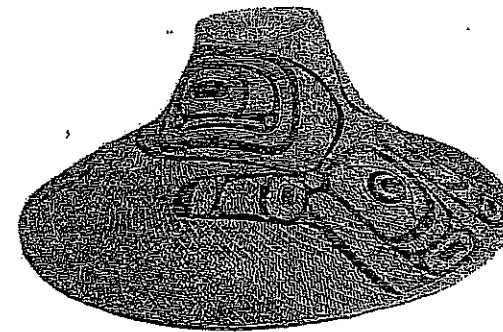
Later, some knew it as a place that bred malefic spirits. Spring starvation showed skully heads, knobbed joints beneath flesh. What desperate work to stay alive, to scrob and claw through hard times. The alchemist sea changed fishermen into wet bones, sent boats to drift among the cod, cast them on the landwash. She remembered the stories in old mouths: the father who shot his oldest children and himself that the rest might live on flour scrapings; sealers crouched on a floe awash from their weight until one leaped into the sea; storm journeys to fetch medicines—always the wrong thing and too late for the convulsing hangashore.

She had not been in these waters since she was a young girl, but it rushed back, the sea's hypnotic boil, the smell of blood, weather and salt, fish heads, spruce smoke and reeking armpits, the rattle of wash-ball rocks in hissing wave, turrs, the crackery taste of brewis, the bedroom under the eaves.

But now they said that hard life was done. The forces of fate weakened by unemployment insurance, a flaring hope in offshore oil money. All was progress and possession, all shove and push, now. They said.

Fifteen she was when they had moved from Quoy's Point, seventeen when the family left for the States, a drop in the tides of Newfoundlanders away from the outports, islands and hidden coves, rushing like water away from isolation, illiteracy, trousers made of worn upholstery fabric, no teeth, away from contorted thoughts and rough hands, from desperation.

## Art of the Northwest Coast

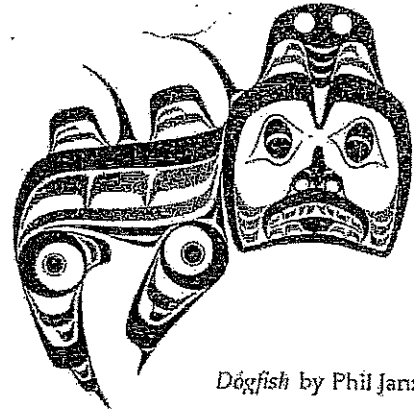


In the past, the social and spiritual order of the Indians was visually confirmed through their art. It was seen in totem poles and house posts which bore the crests of their owners; in elaborate masks and intricately carved goat horn spoons; in tobacco mortars wrought from stone; and delicate pendants made from bone or antler; in magnificent ermine-trimmed headdresses, and spindle whorls enriched with symbolic carving on both sides. Excelling in three-dimensional sculpture, Indian artists also worked in flat design, using brush and pigment to enhance many possessions. Most of these paintings portrayed the crests of their owners, often declaring the owner's lineage, wealth and status. Some had mythical or spiritual meanings. Probably very few had ornamental value alone, although a great love of decoration is shown by its abundant use.

The colours most frequently used were red and black, although a blue-green and sometimes a yellow were also used in some areas. The red was made from red ochre, a hard clay-like mineral, and probably from hematite also, while black was derived from charcoal, graphite or lignite. These materials were ground to a powder and mixed with a binding agent. For the latter, dried salmon eggs were chewed in shredded cedar bark, which retained the membranous parts of the egg while allowing the oil to mix with saliva. The resulting liquid was spat into a stone palette or paint dish and mixed with the powdered pigment to the right consistency. Later, the availability of commercial paints gave rise to experimentation with other colours.

Brushes of several sizes were made of animal hair—often porcupine—lashed to the squared end of a round wooden handle and cut off at an angle. As with the carver's knife, the brush was drawn towards the body, not away. The artist used the edge of the brush for outlines, and the width of it for filling in. Templates, cut from hide or cedar bark, were used as a guide to drawing certain shapes, and to ensure uniformity in a symmetrical design.

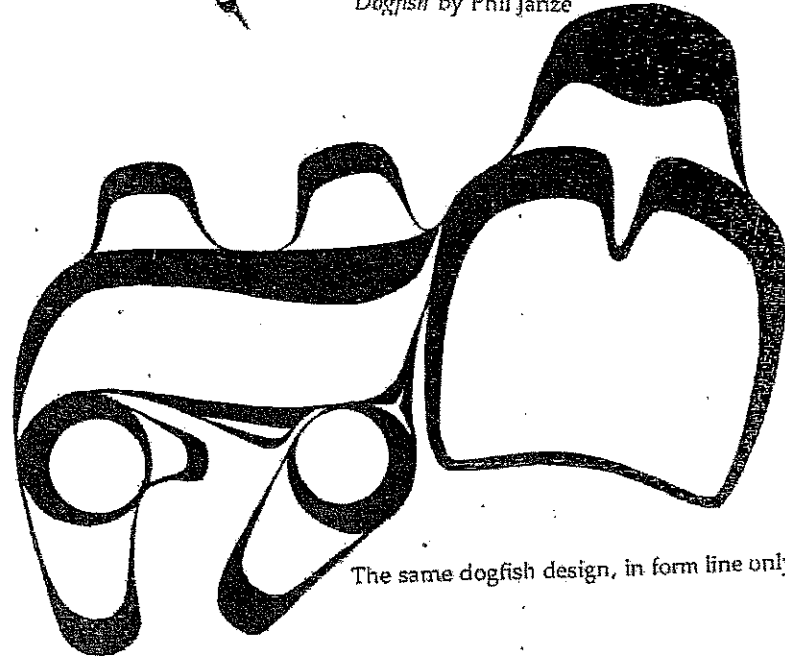
The making and painting of household and ceremonial items was largely abandoned as the new culture spread and took hold in the nineteenth century. Missionaries and school-teachers worked hard to ensure that old ways were forgotten, and the banning of the potlatch by federal law struck the final and most damaging blow. But with the renaissance of native Indian arts in the late 1960s, and its rapid expansion through the 1970s, artists discovered another medium in which to express their talents, and through it produced a household item unknown in the old days. The medium was silkscreen printing—and the household item was the picture to hang on the wall. Family crests and depictions of mythical creatures of legend were now being multiply reproduced on paper. Public appreciation of native art was increasing and a few artists began to make a living from the sales of their prints and other works. And as a new awareness of the old culture's inner strength surged along the coast like a flood tide, the revival of potlatches, dancing and ceremonials again demanded designs and regalia from the artists, and this activity inspired many young people to pursue creative arts. Two-dimensional designs of family crests were required for a growing number of button blankets; painted dance screens were revived; dance aprons, drums and rattles were in demand. The silkscreen print became a gift item at the potlatch, and even invitations to attend the ceremonial event were specially designed and printed. Two-dimensional art was back—and thriving.



Dogfish by Phil Janzé

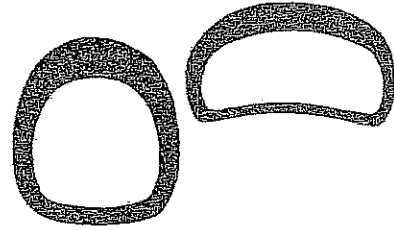
*Form Line*

The two basic colours of Northwest Coast graphic art are black and red. Black, the primary colour, is mainly used for the form line, a strong contoured line which structures the design and clarifies the anatomy of the subject by defining the head, wings, joints, tail, etc. Red, the secondary colour, is generally reserved for elements of secondary importance. When occasionally an artist reverses this order, the red form line still creates the framework of the design.

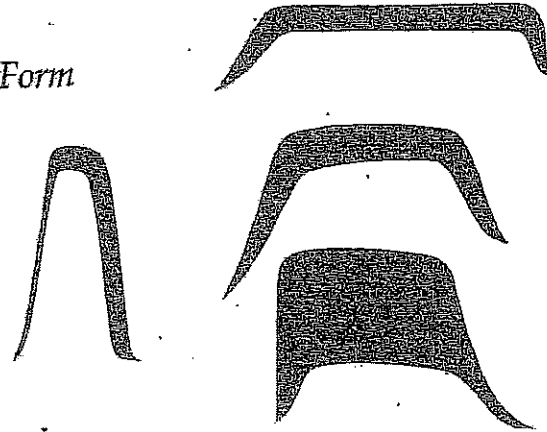


The same dogfish design, in form line only.

*Ovoid*



*U Form*

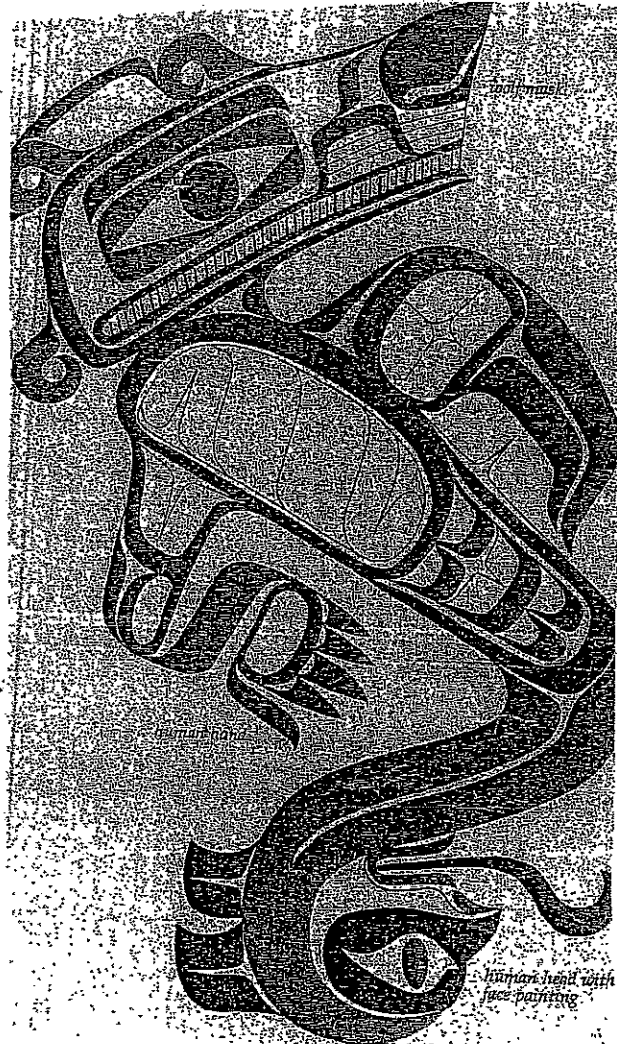


*Transformation Figures*

In the beginning, according to certain legends, all fauna had the appearance of human beings, until the Transformer came along to designate and transform each into a particular species according to the person's activity, attitude or behaviour at the time of encounter.

Because of the Indians' perception of the oneness of all earth's creatures, human and animal, they held the belief that animals could supernaturally change their appearance at will and take on human form. Similarly, humans could transform into animals, birds, fish, and mythical creatures when it was propitious to do so, or as a result of some socially unacceptable behaviour.

This act of transformation was often played out in dances and theatrical presentations, usually with the help of a mask specially designed to create the illusion. In two-dimensional design, transformation is portrayed by showing a creature as part human; just an arm and hand may be sufficient for the purpose. A human head incorporated into a faunal design (other than the ovoid joint) may simply be a reminder that the creature has transformed from human to its present form, or that it is able to do so.



Human's head with face painting

The Canadian Railroad Trilogy by Gordon Lightfoot

There was a time in this fair land when the railroad did not run  
When the wild majestic mountains stood alone against the sun  
Long before the white man and long before the wheel,  
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real

We are the navvies who work upon the railway  
Swinging our hammers in the bright blazing sun  
Laying down track and building the bridges  
Bending our old backs til the railroad is done

But time has no beginnings and the history has no bounds  
As to this verdant country they came from all around  
They sailed upon her waterways and they walked the forests tall  
Built the mines, mills and the factories for the good of us all

So over the mountains and over the plains  
Into the muskeg and into the rain  
Up the St. Lawrence all the way to Gaspé  
Swinging our hammers and drawing our pay  
Layin' 'em in and tying them down  
Away to the bunkhouse and into the town  
A dollar a day and a place for my head  
A drink to the living, a toast to the dead

And when the young man's fancy was tumin' to the spring  
The railroad men grew restless for to hear the hammers ring  
Their minds were overflowing with the visions of their day  
And many a fortune lost and won and many a debt to pay

Oh the song of the future has been sung  
All the battles have been won  
On the mountain tops we stand  
All the world at our command  
We have opened up her soil  
With our teardrops and our toil

For they looked in the future and what did they see  
They saw an iron road running from the sea to the sea  
Bringing the goods to a young growing land  
All up from the seaports and into their hands

For there was a time in this fair land when the railroad did not run  
When the wild majestic mountains stood alone against the sun  
Long before the white man and long before the wheel  
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real  
When the green dark forest was too silent to be real  
And many are the dead men too silent to be real

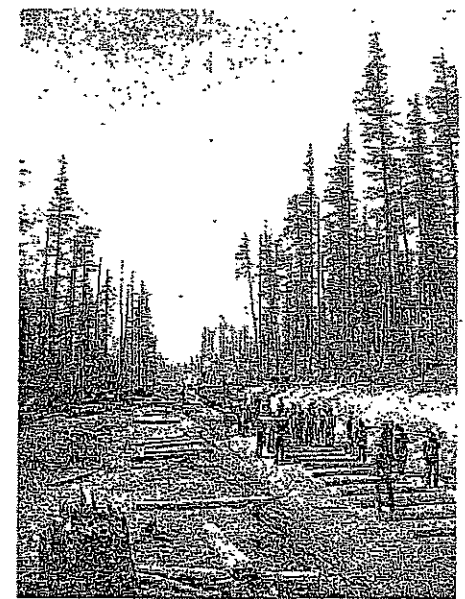
Look away said they across this mighty land  
From the eastern shore to the western strand

Bring in the workers and bring up the rails  
We gotta lay down the tracks and tear up the trails  
Open her heart let the life blood flow  
Gotta get on our way 'cause we're moving too slow

Bring in the workers and bring up the rails  
We're gonna lay down the tracks and tear up the trails  
Open her heart let the life blood flow  
Gotta get on our way 'cause we're moving too slow  
Get on our way 'cause we're moving too slow

Behind the blue Rockies the sun is declining  
The stars they come stealing at the close of the day  
Across the wide prairie our loved ones lie sleeping  
Beyond the dark ocean in a place far away

We are the navvies who work upon the railway  
Swinging our hammers in the bright blazing sun  
Living on stew and drinking bad whiskey  
Bending our backs til the long days are done



Leonard Cohen - Suzanne

5 "Suzanne takes you down  
 to her place near the river  
 you can hear the boats go by  
 you can spend the night beside her  
 and you know that she's half crazy  
 but that's why you want to be there  
 and she feeds you tea and oranges  
 that come all the way from China  
 and just when you mean to tell her  
 that you have no love to give her  
 then she gets you on her wavelength  
 and she lets the river answer  
 that you've always been her lover

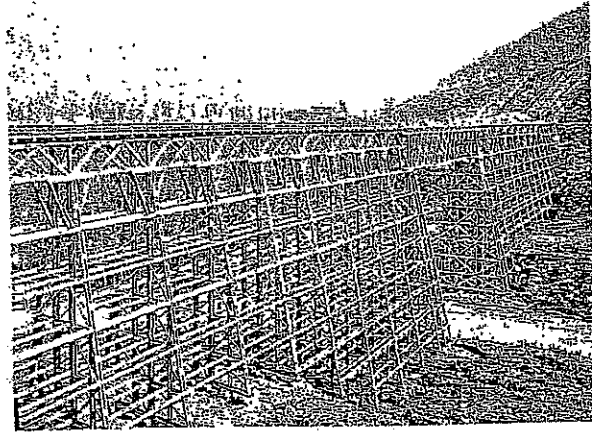
6 And you want to travel with her  
 and you want to travel blind  
 and you know that she will trust you  
 for you've touched her perfect body with your mind.

7 And Jesus was a sailor  
 when he walked upon the water  
 and he spent a long time watching  
 from his lonely wooden tower  
 and when he knew for certain  
 only drowning men could see him  
 he said - All men will be sailors then  
 8 until the sea shall free them -  
 but he himself was broken  
 long before the sky would open  
 forsaken, almost human  
 he sank beneath your wisdom like a stone

9 And you want to travel with him  
 and you want to travel blind  
 and you think maybe you'll trust him  
 for he's touched your perfect body with his mind.

10 Now Suzanne takes your hand  
 and she leads you to the river  
 she is wearing rags and feathers  
 from Salvation Army counters  
 and the sun pours down like honey  
 on our lady of the harbour  
 and she shows you where to look  
 among the garbage and the flowers  
 there are heroes in the seaweed  
 there are children in the morning  
 they are leaning out for love  
 and they will lean that way forever  
 while Suzanne holds the mirror

11 And you want to travel with her  
 and you want to travel blind  
 and you know that you can trust her  
 for she's touched your perfect body with her mind".



Whale, Killer Whale

Since ancient times, seafarers have held in awe those great mammals of the ocean, the whales, and have made them the subject of fantasy and superstition.

The West Coast people, and the Makah living on Cape Alaya on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, actively hunted the grey whale. They were the only people along the entire Northwest Coast to do so, and they sought success in the hunt through months of rigorous ceremonial preparation.

Many legends and beliefs grew up around the great sea mammals. If a whale were injured but not killed in the hunt, it would return at some other time and capsize the whaler's canoe. A widespread belief held that a whale could capture a canoe and drag it and all those aboard down to the underwater Village of the Whales. Once there, the people would be transformed, and themselves become whales. The Haida believed that whales appearing in front of a village were drowned persons returning to communicate with the people.

The Tsimshian saw whales as being members of four clans, and represented them differently in design. This concept may have originated with the recognition of various whale species. The Eagle clan of the whales had a white stripe across the middle of the dorsal fin, the Wolf clan carried a long dorsal fin like a wolf's tail, the Raven clan's fin resembled a raven's beak, and the Gispawadwe'da (no translation) had a short fin with a hole in the centre.

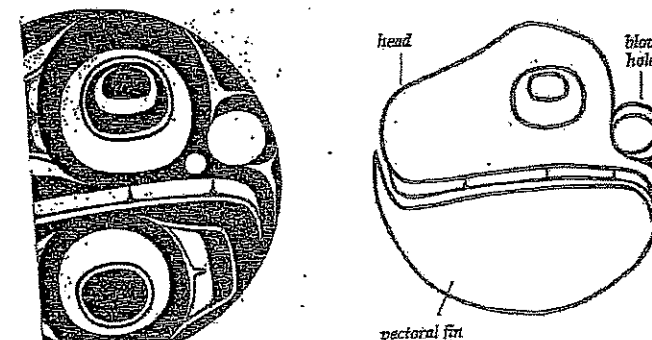
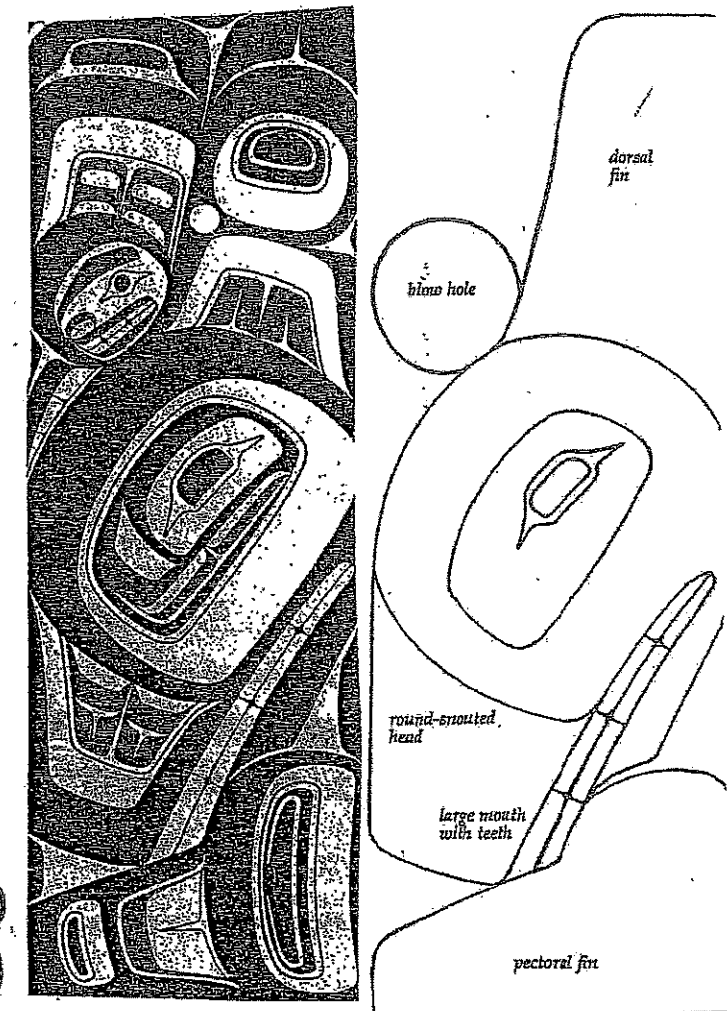
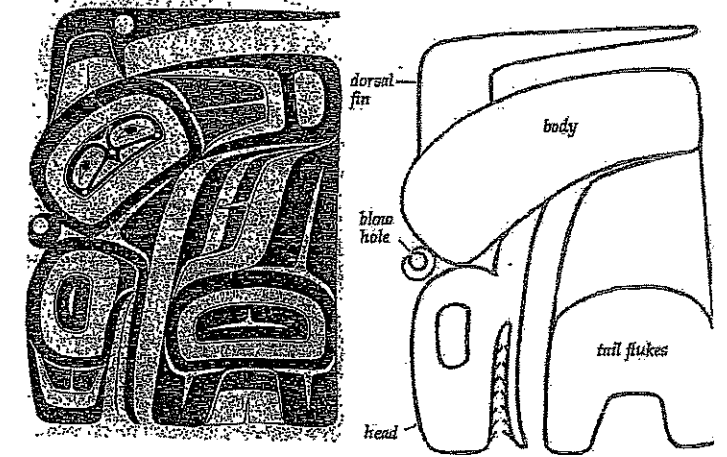
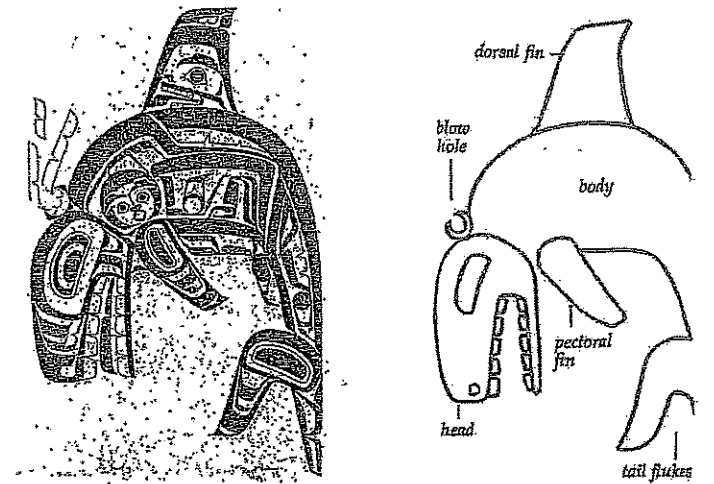
The Haida have a legend of Raven-finned Killer Whale, a whale chief who carries a raven perched on top of his tall dorsal fin, and there are legends of two-, three- and even five-finned killer whales. These legends could have originated from the sight of a cluster of dorsal fins where whales surfaced together, as often happens.

Whales are prolific in the art of the Northwest Coast peoples and are a frequent motif with print makers. The distinguishing features are clearly defined, and two or more are always present no matter how minimal the portrayal. They are: a round snouted head with large mouth and many teeth, a blow hole, a dorsal fin, a pectoral fin, and a tail with symmetrical flukes—although in profile the latter can appear asymmetrical.

In rearranging the anatomy of a crest figure, the artist can also bend, distort or exaggerate—even eliminate—some of the body parts so as to fill the given shape and create a pleasing composition.

All this can make the design more difficult to interpret, but the key symbols will always be included, and by finding them, and understanding the arrangement, one can see the subject without too much difficulty. An exception is when the various parts of the crest are totally broken up and distorted, in order to cover every inch of the given shape; then the design becomes a complete abstract. It is usually impossible to recognize the subject of such a design; the Chilkat blanket is an example.

A selection of designs, all representing the whale, show how this sea mammal can be arranged and even abbreviated to fit a particular shape, and yet retain its identity.





### Beaver

A Tsimshian legend tells of the origin of the beaver. A woman with brown hair dammed a small stream to make a pool for swimming, and as she swam, her leather apron kept slapping the water. The pool became a lake and, because of scolding words from her husband, she refused to leave it. She became covered all over with brown fur, her apron turned into a tail, and thus she became the first beaver.

Although Beaver always has ears and rounded nostrils, the two most identifying symbols are the tail and the two large incisor teeth. A design depicting this animal, no matter how stylized or distorted to fit a given shape, will always carry these telltale symbols. Quite often a U form, the tail is always crosshatched to resemble the patterning of the scaly surface, but it may also carry a human face which represents the tail joint. When the beaver is shown facing front, the tail is generally drawn up against the stomach. The incisor teeth are close together and not pointed as are the canines of the bear or wolf. Beaver will often be carrying a chewing stick in front paws that have fingers.

### Bear, Grizzly Bear, Sea Bear

The bear is the subject of many legends and superstitions and is often featured in art works, particularly totem poles and button blankets, as it is an important family crest.

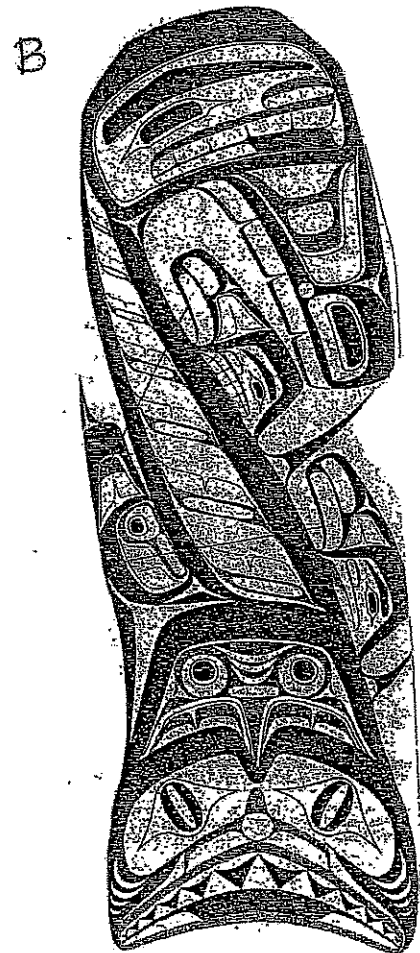
A well known Haida legend (shared also by other cultures) is that of a woman who was abducted by a bear while berry picking. She married the bear and subsequently gave birth to twin cubs.

Because of its power and human-like qualities, the bear was referred to by West Coast people as "Elder Kinsman." When killed, it was taken to the chief's house, sprinkled with eagle down (a symbol of welcome and friendship) and generally treated as a high ranking guest.

The bear is defined by having ears, large flaring nostrils, a wide mouth with conspicuous teeth (which may include canines) and often a protruding tongue. Claw-like hands and feet are characteristic, unless the animal is the legendary Sea Bear, in which case, because it is part whale, it has fins. The minimal tail of the bear is generally ignored.

Most important of all creatures to the coast Indian peoples was Raven. It was Raven—the Transformer, the cultural hero, the trickster, the Big Man (he took many forms to many peoples)—who created the world. He put the sun, moon and stars into the sky, fish into the sea, salmon into the rivers, and food onto the land; he manoeuvred the tides to assure daily access to beach resources. Raven gave the people fire and water, placed the rivers, lakes and cedar trees over the land, and peopled the earth.

Full of magical, supernatural power, Raven could turn himself into anything at any time. He could dive beneath the sea, ascend into the sky, or make anything happen by willing it. His legendary antics were often motivated by insatiable greed, and he loved to tease, to cheat, to woo, and to trick. But all too often the tables were turned on the hapless Raven.



Two extracts from Anne Michaels, *The Winter Vault*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2009, pp:64-67

Every history has its catalogue of numbers. Six thousand people built the seaway. Twenty thousand acres were flooded. Two hundred and twenty-five farms disappeared. Five hundred and thirty-one houses were moved. The houses left behind were deliberately torched, exploded, or levelled by bulldozers. To accommodate the amalgamated population, nine schools, fourteen churches, and four shopping centres were built. Eighteen cemeteries, fifteen historical sites, highway and railway lines, power and phone lines were relocated. Hundreds of thousands of feet of telephone cables and wire fencing were rolled away on giant spools; telephone poles were plucked from the ground and carried off on trucks.

In clearing land for the new lake, thirty-six hundred acres of timber were logged, and eleven thousand trees more – the "domestic" trees that had grown up close to people, near houses, in the villages, including the more than five-hundred-year-old elm with a trunk ten feet wide that had overlooked the woollen mills and grist mills that had brought the town of Moulinette its prosperity. The elm that had survived the building of all the early canals.

A priest was hired, at a rate of twenty-five dollars a day, to oversee the exhumation of bodies from the graveyards; more than two thousand graves were moved at the request of their families. The thousands of graves remaining were heaped with stones, in order to prevent the bodies from surfacing into the new lake.

In each church, a last service.

Thirty tonnes of explosives lay nestled into the rocks of Cofferdam A-1, the barrier that had kept the north channel of the St. Lawrence riverbed dry. On Tuesday, July 1, 1958 – Dominion Day – thousands of spectators gathered along the bank in the hot summer rain.

hundred square miles of fertile farmland would be inundated. At first it was just as the crowd expected; the river did not disappoint them. The water pushed past the blasted dam in a torrent. But very soon the flood slowed and narrow runs of muddy water slithered into the dry bed. The water seeped, two miles an hour, toward the dam, where it would become Lake St. Lawrence.

Then the very slowness of the rising water became the spectacle.

For five days, the water sought its level. The river climbed its banks, creeping almost intangibly, and each day more of the land disappeared. Farmers watched their fields slowly begin to glisten and turn blue. In the abandoned towns, the pavement began to waver with water. House and church foundations seemed to sink. Trees began to shrink. Boys from the villages amused themselves by swimming over the centre line of the highway.

The men and women of the lost villages rowed boats out to where they had lived; no one seemed to be able to resist this urge.



Along these leafy shores of the St. Lawrence, towns and hamlets had sprung up, founded by United Empire Loyalists, settlers made up of former soldiers in the battalion of the "Royal Yorkers." Then came the German, the Dutch, the Scottish settlers. Then a tourist by the name of Charles Dickens, travelling by steamboat and stagecoach who described the river that "boiled and bubbled" near Dickinson's Landing and the astonishing sight of the log drive. "A most gigantic raft, some thirty or forty wooden houses on it, and at least as many log-masts, so that it looked like a nautical street . . ."

Before this came the hunters of the sea, the Basque, Breton, and English whalers. And, in 1534, Jacques Cartier, the hunter who captured the biggest prize, an entire continent, by quickly recognizing that, by bark canoe, one could follow the river and pierce the land to its heart.

The great trade barons grumbled, unable to depart their Atlantic ports and conquer the Great Lakes with their large ships, groaning with goods to sell. Two irksome details stood in the way: the second largest falls in the world - Niagara - and the Long Sault Rapids.

The sound of the Long Sault was deafening. It ate words out of the air and anything caught up in its force. For three miles, a heavy mist hung over the river and even those at a distance were soaked with spray. The white water rampaged through a narrow gorge, a gradual thirty-foot descent.

In the mid-1800s, canals were cut to bypass the rapids but were too shallow for the great freighters. It was the way of things; Avery could not name a significant instance where this was not true, that early canals proved to be the first cut of a future dam, no matter how many generations lay between them. Building the seaway, with a dam to span the Canadian and American banks of the river, had been discussed many times, over many decades, until, in 1954, the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project was born. Hydroelectricity would be created for both countries; a lake, a hundred miles long, would pool between them.

To achieve these ends, the wild Long Sault would be drained to its riverbed. For a year, while the channels were widened, archaeologists would roam the ships' graveyard where, for centuries, the force of the water had welded cannonballs, masts, and iron plate into the rock of "the cellar" on impact. Nothing short of an explosion would pry them loose.

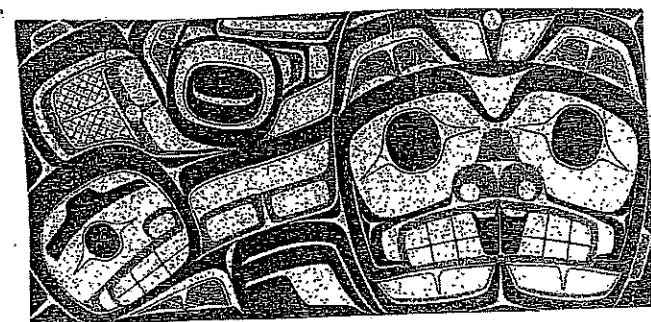
For some time, Avery sat on the shore of the river, in sight of the heavy machines, and thought about the wildness of that water, the elation of that force.

### Dogfish or Shark

Easy to identify, Dogfish always has a high domed head, a downturned mouth—usually with sharply pointed teeth—and gill slits on each side of the mouth. The high "forehead" is the underside view of the fish's long tapering head and nose.

Other identifying features of this member of the shark family may include:

- two small round nostrils
- gill slits on the forehead and/or cheeks
- eyes having vertical pupils
- prominent fins
- sharp spines
- asymmetrical tail flukes.



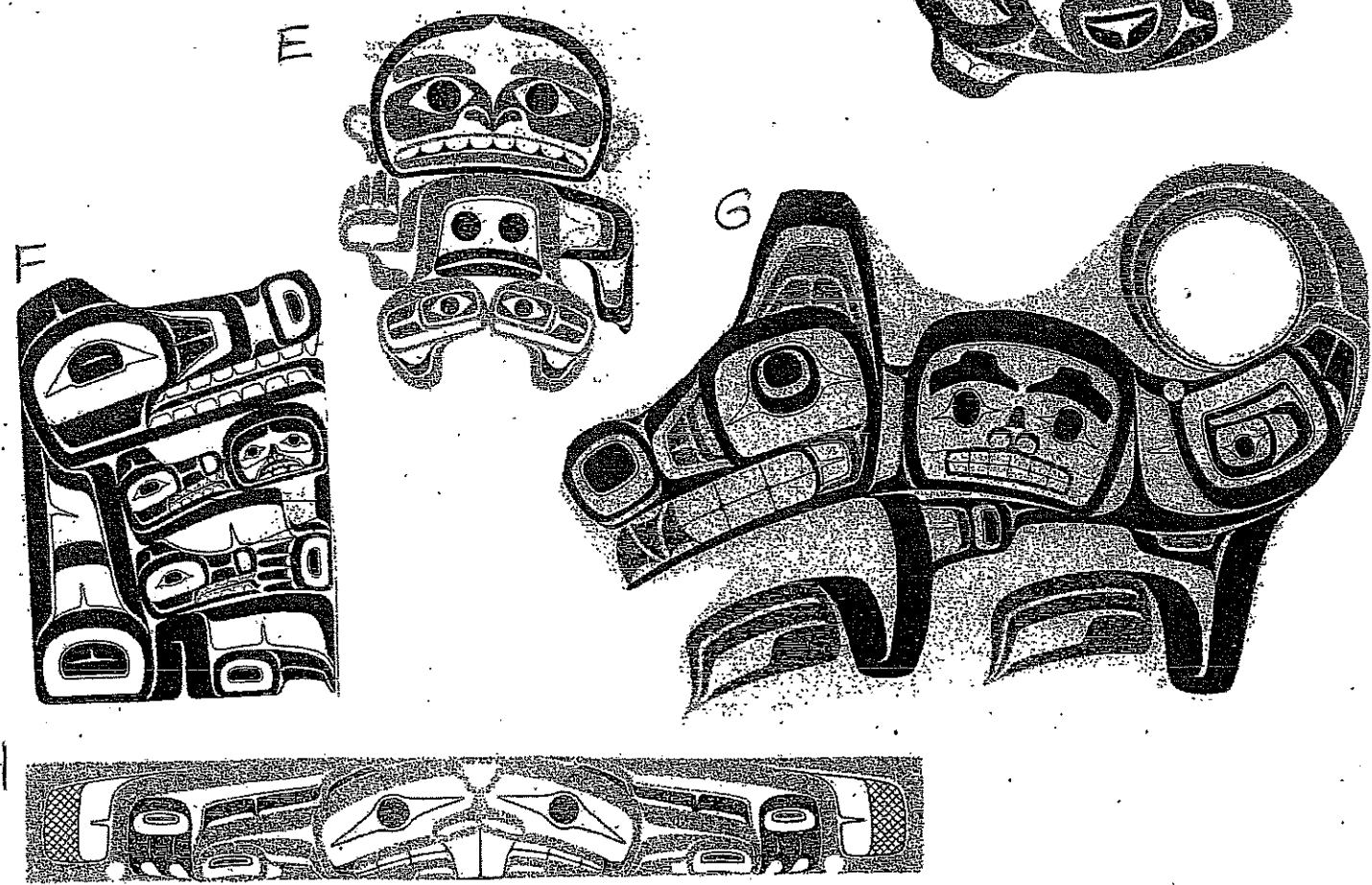
### Wolf

Revered because it was a good hunter, the wolf was often associated with the special spirit power a man had to acquire to become a successful hunter. The wolf was the land manifestation of the killer whale. According to West Coast legend, a supernatural white wolf transformed itself into a killer whale; hence these sea mammals' white markings and their habit of travelling in groups, as wolves do.

The wolf is still an important family crest and is often represented on the personal possessions of those with the right to use it.

Generally seen in profile, Wolf may be depicted crouched on all fours, or sitting with front paws raised. The four main features of identification are: elongated snout with flared nostrils; large and many teeth (which may include canines); prominent ears, and a curled-over tail. The latter may have a series of diagonal curved lines representing its bushiness.

The addition of fins or flippers indicates that the animal is the mythical Sea Wolf known to many tribes and called Wasgo in Haida legend.





### Canadian Landscape Painters

Tom Thomson 1877-1917

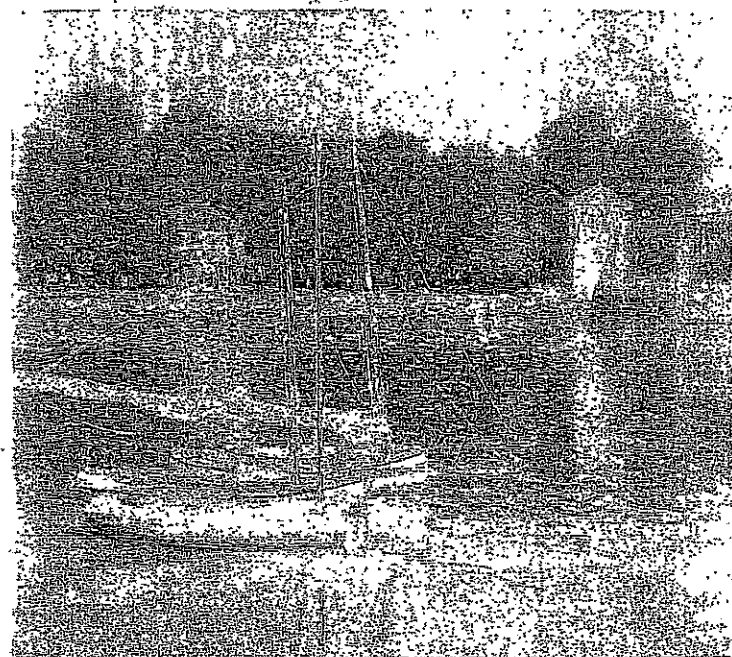
Emily Carr 1871-1945

The Group of Seven: Franklin Carmichael 1890-1945, Lawren Harris 1885-1970, A.Y. Jackson 1882-1972,

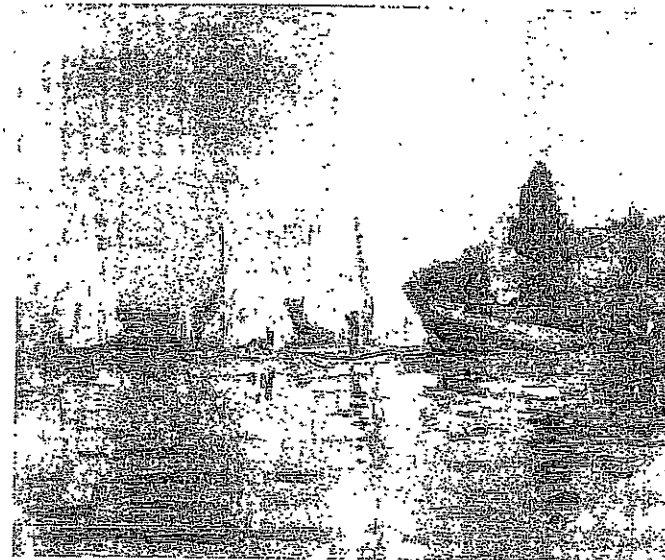
Frank Johnston 1888-1949, Arthur Lismer 1885-1969, J.E.H. MacDonald 1873-1932,

Frederick Varley 1881-1969

The descriptions A-E are taken from "The Impressionists" by William S. Gaunt, 1970  
Read the descriptions and match them with images 1-5.



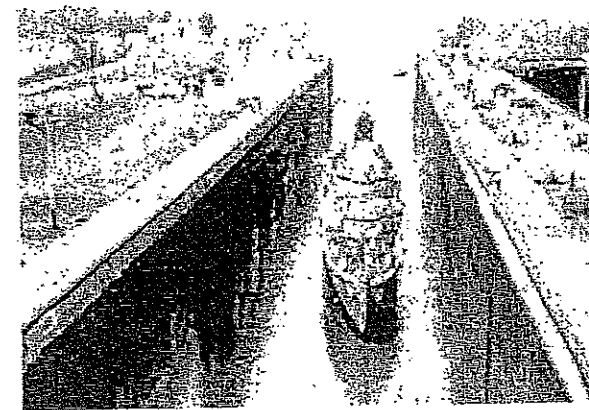
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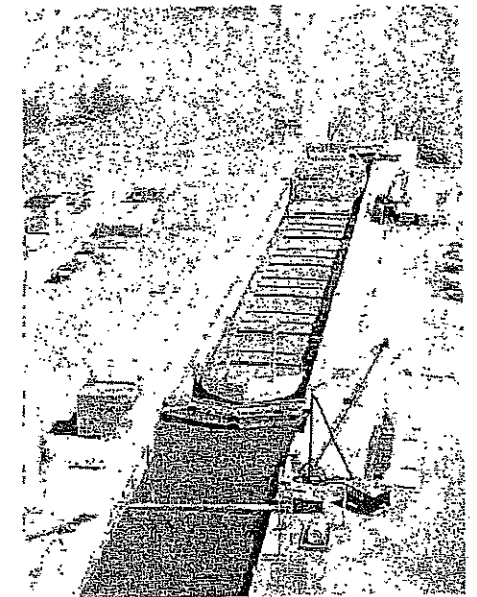
3



My favorite of all the kinds of country is the one I've left till last. This is kame, or kame moraine, which is a chocolate bur-gundy color on the map and is generally in blobs, not ribbons.  
A big blob here, a little one there. Kame moraines show where a heap of dead ice sat, cut off from the rest of the moving gla-cier, earth-stuff pouring through all its holes and crevices. Or sometimes it shows where two lobes of ice pulled apart, and the crevice filled in. End moraines are hilly in what seems a reasonable way, not as smooth as drumlins, but still harmo-nious, rhythmical, while kame moraines are all wild and bumpy, unpredictable, with a look of chance and secrets.



a system of locks



### THE ST LAWRENCE SEAWAY PROJECT



The yellow color shows sand, not along the lakeshore but collected inland, often bordering a swamp or a long-gone lake. The freckles are not round but lozenge-shaped, and they appear in the landscape like partly buried eggs, with the blunt end against the flow of the ice. These are drumlins—thickly packed in some places, sparse in others. Some qualifying as big smooth hills, some barely breaking through the ground. They give their name to the soil in which they appear (drumlinized till—tan) and to the somewhat rougher soil which has none of them in it (undrumlinized till—battleship gray). The glacier in fact did lay them down like eggs, neatly and economically getting rid of material that it had picked up in its bulldozing advance. And where it didn't manage this, the ground is naturally rougher.

The purple tails are end moraines, they show where the ice halted on its long retreat, putting down a ridge of rubble at its edge. The vivid green strokes are eskers, and they are the easiest of all features to recognize, when you're looking through the car window. Miniature mountain ranges, dragons' backs—they show the route of the rivers that tunneled under the ice, at right angles to its front. Torrents loaded with gravel, which they discharged as they went. Usually there will be a little mild-mannered creek, running along beside an esker—a direct descendant of that ancient battering river.

The orange color is for spillways, the huge channels that carried off the meltwater. And the dark gray shows the swamps that have developed in the spillways and are still there. Blue shows the clay soil, where the ice water was trapped in lakes. These places are flat but not smooth and there is something sour and lumpy about clay fields. Heavy soil, coarse grass, poor drainage.

Meadow green is for the bevelled till, the wonderfully smooth surface that the old Lake Warren planed in the deposits along the shore of today's Lake Huron.

Red strokes and red interrupted lines that appear on the bevelled till, or on the sand nearby, are remnants of bluffs and the abandoned beaches of those ancestors of the Great Lakes, whose outlines are discernible now only by a gentle lift of the land. Such prosaic, modern, authoritative-sounding names they have been given—Lake Warren, Lake Whittlesey.

Up on the Bruce peninsula there is limestone under a thin soil (pale gray), and around Owen Sound and on Cape Rich there is shale, at the bottom of the Niagara Escarpment, exposed where the limestone is worn off. Crumbly rock that can be made into brick of the same color it shows on the map—rosy pink.

A

It is possibly the painting he refers to in a letter to Theo written towards the end of June with 'a cornfield very yellow' and the cypress—a tree just then 'always occupying my thoughts' that was 'a splash of black in a sunny landscape'. The whirling brushstrokes of the sky may at first give the disturbing suggestion of mental imbalance and violence beyond control, but the longer the picture is considered the more consistent it appears as a whole in the multitude of curves that twist and turn and repeat themselves throughout. Nor is it to be supposed that Van Gogh was incapable of anything else. The flame-like form of the cypress sets a key that is followed through with a pervading vibration that represents a sustained effort.

B

the glow of light produced by pure and unmixed colour pervades the canvas and surrounds the forms appearing in it. The interplay between the short strokes indicative of ripples and the larger areas of colour is made with a typical flexibility of skill.

The accusation is sometimes made against the Impressionists that in their concern with atmosphere they lost sight of qualities of form and composition. Analysis of this painting would show, in spite of its apparent lack of pre-intended arrangement, how coherent it is in design. The verticals of the masts, of the houses and bridge piers and their reflections are set down firmly with an obvious sense of their pictorial value. There are those echoes of form and colour in which harmony of composition is to be found. The line of the furled sail is caught by the ribbed sky at the left; the warm tones of buildings are echoed in the details of the yachts; the dapple of clouds in the blue sky (with its deeper richness of blue in reflection) has its tonal equivalent in the reflections of the boats. To relax and look at the picture without analytic effort, however, is to see it resolve into an idyllic vision in which modern life has introduced no jarring note.

C

The picture, painted with a decided vigour and confidence, is full of movement of two kinds—in the sky with its broken areas of cloud and in the foaming water of the weir. The purposely limited range of blue and green conveys freshness though there are subtle passages of warmer colour lighting up the effect, such as the far bank behind the two bathers on the left, the glimpse of a building and some foreground touches. Like his friend Monet, Sisley was aware of the contrast to be gained with atmospheric effect by a rigid structure such as a bridge. Here the weir so boldly defined serves as a vertebral column to a composition which shows the painter in his freest and most decisive mood.

D

Some paintings were patterned with a series of restless touches that conveyed the suggestion of squally conditions, but in others—of which this is a brilliant example—he became masterfully broad in handling. Fascinated by the spread of sail in warm, creamy silhouette against blue sky, he made a bold simplification, treating the river and its reflections with equal breadth. It was a constantly practised hand that could sweep in those long foreground strokes so suggestive of the river's long placid tipple.

E

—the beauty of the picture is that of classical calm. The division of colours, little more obtrusive than the dots in the mechanical three-colour process of reproduction, fuses in exquisite tone. He is near to Impressionism in the feeling of atmosphere he gives but the stability conveyed by his systematization of colour is reinforced by the quiet firmness of geometric line and careful spacing.

4



5



The Art of Emily Carr  
 by Doris Shadbolt  
 Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver 1987

## PROLOGUE

ARTIST OF THE CANADIAN WEST COAST Emily Carr was born in Victoria on Vancouver Island 13 December 1871, died there 2 March 1945, and lived most of her life within a few blocks of the house where she was born in the James Bay district of that city. Her genius thrived in the island's isolation from mainland British Columbia and in the province's isolation from the rest of Canada and the world. The two great themes of her work derived from the most characteristic features of that region — a unique and vanishing Indian culture, and a powerful coastal nature. It is logical to think of Carr and the Canadian West Coast at the same time, for her painting and her writing bear the indelible imprint of her long attachment to the place where she was born and where she chose to remain.

Despite persistent regional ties, she was not an artist who lacked broader contact, for as a girl in her late teens and early twenties she studied in San Francisco and spent altogether a little over three years there. Another five were spent in England and a little over one year in France at a time when some of the ideas crucial in the development of twentieth-century art were just emerging. Her work was admitted to a major Paris exhibition in 1911, where she was in the company of some of the progressive European artists of the day. There were trips to eastern Canada and to New York and Chicago. Through these travels she gained access to the general tradition of western European art within whose broad outlines she was to produce her work.

During one phase of her career, Carr painted in a French postimpressionist manner and at times revealed a distinctly Fauvist influence; during another period, her work showed stylistic links with Cubism. Late in her life, her passionate search for identification with universal primal energies produced occasional paintings that evoke van Gogh or suggest spiritual affinities with German Expressionism. Closer to home, her relationship to Canadian art and to the work of Lawren Harris and other members of the Group of Seven can be more readily observed. Yet she remained a highly individualistic artist, never truly part of larger world movements or their Canadian expressions, even though from time to time she borrowed their mannerisms.

Her long and productive career was marked by interruptions in style and continuity. She made a conventional early start and then, in her early middle age, a courageous and promising break into a larger international art stream, but at that point she lost her momentum in a sudden lapse of spirit. This lapse, though prolonged, was only a prelude to an explosive burst into sudden authority and a brilliant late flowering. Despite a substantial body of early work of interest and quality, that for which she is best known — and justly so — was done between her fifty-sixth and seventy-first years — paintings of dark and silent forests, monumental Indian carvings, towering trees, wild storm-tossed beaches and infinite skies, which spring from her lifelong Pacific coast experience.

Extract from Alice Munroe, *The View from Castle Rock*, Chatto and Windrus, 2006, pp. 318-321

The landscape here is a record of ancient events. It was formed by the advancing, stationary, and retreating ice. The ice has staged its conquests and retreats here several times, withdrawing for the last time about fifteen thousand years ago.

Quite recently, you might say. Quite recently now that I have got used to a certain way of reckoning history.

A glacial landscape such as this is vulnerable. Many of its various contours are made up of gravel, and gravel is easy to get at, easy to scoop out, and always in demand. That's the material that makes these back roads passable—gravel from the chewed-up hills, the plundered terraces, that have been turned into holes in the land. And it's a way for farmers to get hold of some cash. One of my earliest memories is of the summer my father sold off the gravel on our river flats, and we had the excitement of the trucks going past all day, as well as the importance of the sign at our gate. *Children Playing*. That was us. Then when the trucks were gone, the gravel removed, there was the novelty of pits and hollows that held, almost into the summer, the remains of the spring floods. Such hollows will eventually grow clumps of tough flowering weeds, then grass and bushes.

In the big gravel pits you see hills turned into hollows, as if a part of the landscape had managed, in a haphazard way, to turn itself inside out. And little lakes ripple where before there were only terraces or river flats. The steep sides of the hollows grow lush, in time, bumpy with greenery. But the tracks of the glacier are gone for good.

So you have to keep checking, taking in the changes, seeing things while they last.

We have special maps that we travel with. They are maps sold to accompany a book called *The Physiography of Southern Ontario*, by Lyman Chapman and Donald Putnam—whom we refer to, familiarly but somewhat reverentially, as Put and Chap. These maps show the usual roads and towns and rivers, but they show other things as well—things that were a complete surprise to me when I first saw them.

Look at just one map—a section of southern Ontario south of Georgian Bay. Roads, towns and rivers appear, as well as township boundaries. But look what else—patches of bright yellow, fresh green, battleship gray, and a darker mud gray, and a very pale gray, and splotches or stretches or fat or skinny tails of blue and tan and orange and rosy pink and purple and burgundy brown. Clusters of freckles. Ribbons of green like grass snakes. Narrow fluttery strokes from a red pen.

What is all this?



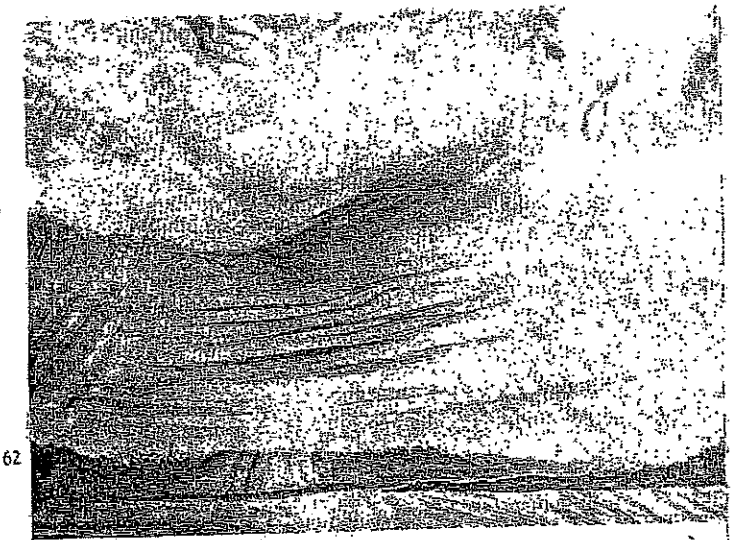
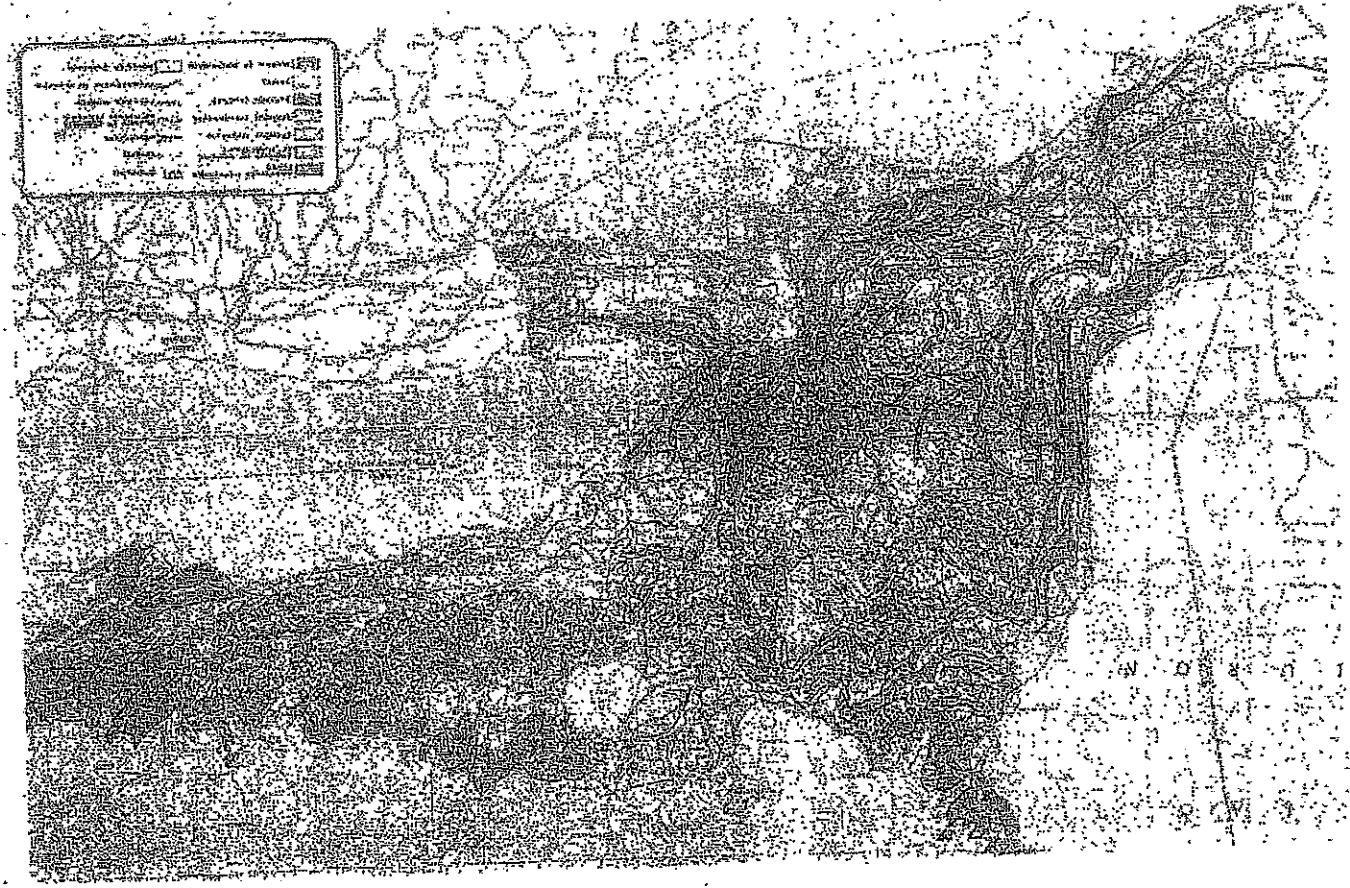
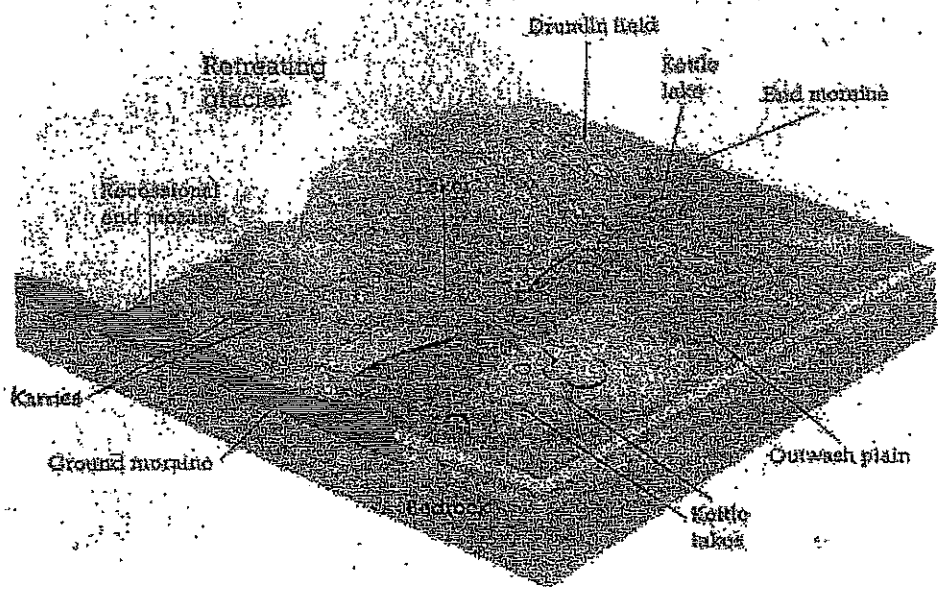
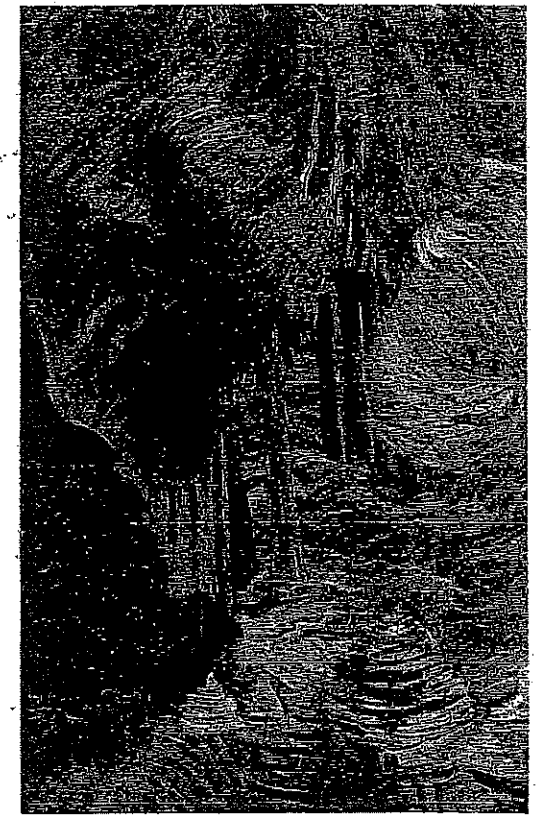
### Emily Carr's Writing

Working on jungle. . . nobody goes there. . . The loneliness repels them, the density, the unsafe hidden footing, the dank smells, the great quiet, the mystery, the general mix-up (tangle, growth, what may be hidden there), the insect life. They are repelled by the awful solemnity of the age-old trees, with the wisdom of all their years of growth looking down upon you, making you feel perfectly infinitesimal — their overpowering weight, their groanings and creekings, mutterings and sighings — the rot and decay of the old ones — the toadstools and slugs among the upturned, rotting roots of those that have fallen, reminding one of the perishableness of even those slow-maturing, much-enduring growths. . . The sallow is tough and stubborn, rose and blackberry thorny. There are the fallen logs and mossy stumps, the thousand varieties of growth and shapes and obstacles, the dips and hollows, hillocks and mounds, riverbeds, forests of young pines and spruce piercing up through the tangle to get to the quiet light diluted through the overhanging branches of great overtopping trees. Should you sit down, the great, dry, green sea would sweep over and engulf you.

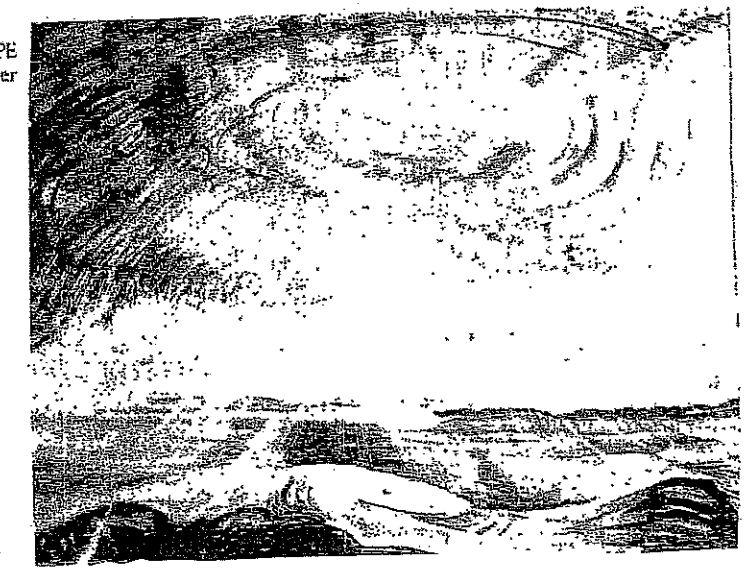
*Hundreds and Thousands*, p. 207

I woke up this morning with "unity of movement" in a picture strong in my mind. I believe Van Gogh had that idea. I did not realize he had striven for that till quite recently so I did not come by the idea through him. It seems to me that clears up a lot. I see it very strongly out on the beach and cliffs. I felt it in the woods but did not quite realize what I was feeling. Now it seems to me the first thing to seize on in your layout is the direction of your main movement, the sweep of the whole thing as a unit. One must be very careful about the transition of one curve of direction into the next, vary the length of the wave of space but *keep it going*, a pathway for the eye and the mind to travel through and into the thought. For long I have been trying to get these movements of the parts. Now I see there is only *one* movement. It sways and ripples. It may be slow or fast but it is only one movement sweeping out into space but always keeping going — rocks, sea, sky, one continuous movement.

*Hundreds and Thousands*, pp. 106-07



SKY  
oil on paper 162



SEASCAPE  
oil on paper

## Multicultural Canada

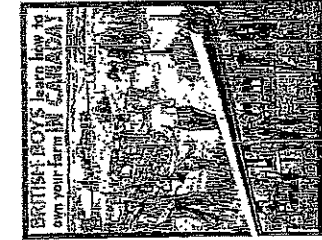
Canada prides itself on its multiculturalism. The country has evolved a unique way of adjusting to the cultural needs of its increasingly diverse population. In contrast to the US's "melting pot," Canada has opted for what is often called the "Canadian mosaic," a model based on accepting diversity rather than assimilation. The origins of this tolerant and fruitful approach are embedded deep in Canadian history. Fearful of attack by the US in 1793, the British safeguarded the religious and civic institutions of their French-Canadian subjects in the hope that they would not ally with the Americans. This policy set the pattern of compromise that is a hallmark of Canada. Citizens of British and French descent still make up the bulk of the population of the country, but there are around 60 significant minorities.



Young Inuit people in traditional dress huddled against the snow.

### Aboriginal Canadians

Today there are well over one million Aboriginal Canadians, the 1996 national census figures include both this group down to the sub-sections. At least 600,000 Métis (a mix of French mixed with Indian and European blood) and 400,000 First Nations live in 60 percent of the country. Many are still settled on reserves, but more and more are moving into urban areas. The Indian Act, which governs the lives of First Nations, is a complex of laws which have been amended many times. The Indian Act is a complex of laws which have been amended many times. The Indian Act is a complex of laws which have been amended many times.



British poster of the 1920s promoting immigration to Canada.

### French Canadians

Canada's French-speakers make up about 20 percent of the total population, and are the country's second-largest ethnic group. They are mainly based in Quebec and New Brunswick, but pockets thrive

### British and Irish Canadians

Canadians of British and Irish descent constitute a large percentage of the country's population. The first English settlers arrived in the wake of the fleet that fished the waters off Newfoundland in the 16th century. Thereafter, there was a steady trickle of English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish immigrants and several mass migrations, prompted either by adverse politics at home or fresh opportunities in Canada. Thousands of Scots arrived following the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden in 1746, and the Irish poured across the Atlantic during and after the potato famine (1845-49). When the Prairie provinces opened up in the 1880s and later, at the end of both world wars, another large-scale migration took place.

These British and Irish settlers did much to shape Canada, establishing its social and cultural norms and founding its legal and political institutions. Canada's official Head of State is still the British monarch.

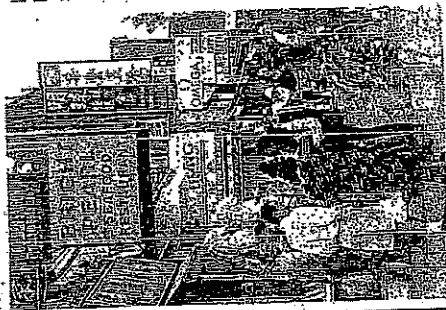
In 1914, the first Canadian-born prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was elected. He was the first of a long line of prime ministers who were born in Canada. Laurier's leadership was marked by a steady increase in the number of immigrants from the United States and Europe. The 1920s saw a significant increase in immigration, particularly from the United States and Europe. The 1930s saw a significant increase in immigration, particularly from the United States and Europe.

The 1940s saw a significant increase in immigration, particularly from the United States and Europe. The 1950s saw a significant increase in immigration, particularly from the United States and Europe. The 1960s saw a significant increase in immigration, particularly from the United States and Europe.

### German Canadians

Although there have been German-speakers in Canada since the 1600s, the first major migration came between 1850-1900, with other mass arrivals following both world wars. On the whole, the English-speaking majority has absorbed the Germans, but distinctive pockets of German-speakers hold strong today in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia (see p22), and Kitchener-Waterloo in Ontario. The rural communities surrounding Kitchener-Waterloo are strongholds of the Amish (see p22), a religious sect that speaks Pennsylvania Dutch, and whose members shun the trappings of modern life and travel in horse-drawn carts wearing traditional homemade clothes.

German food and drink, especially its beer-making techniques, have added to Canadian cuisine.



Street scene in Chinatown, Toronto.

### Italian Canadians

The widespread Italian presence in Canada can prove hard to see, as, for the most part, all 600,000 immigrants have merged almost seamlessly with the English speakers. There are, however, exceptions: in Toronto, you can find numerous Italian restaurants and espresso bars in the Little Italy neighborhood on College Street, west of Bathurst.

The first major influx of Italian Canadians came in the wake of the civil wars that disrupted Italy in the second half of the 19th century; another wave arrived in the 1940s and 1950s after World War II.

Immigration continues into the 21st century, with two percent of Canadians today speaking Italian as their first language.

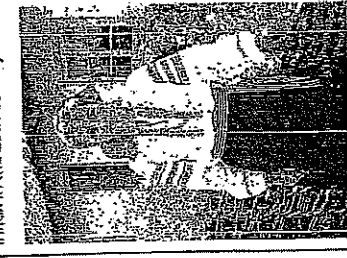
### Chinese Canadians

During the 1850s, Chinese laborers arrived in Canada to work in the gold fields of British Columbia. Thereafter, they played a key role in the construction of the railroads, settling new towns and cities, as their work progressed eastward. During this period the Chinese suffered much

brutal racism, including laws that enforced statutory discrimination. Political uncertainties caused a flood of Chinese immigration just before the return of Hong Kong to China by the British in 1997. Most settlers chose Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. With the Chinese focus on keeping large families together, most new arrivals aim for an already established Chinese community. About half of all Canada's immigrants today come from Asia. Over two percent of the Canadian population claimed Chinese as their first language in the late 1990s.

### Ukrainian Canadians

Although Ukrainians are a small fraction of the Canadian population, numbering less than three percent, they have had a strong cultural influence, especially in the Prairie Provinces, where the cupolas of their churches rise above many midwestern villages. The first major wave of Ukrainian immigrants arrived in the 1890s as refugees from Tsarist persecution. The Soviet regime and the aftermath of World War II caused a second influx in the 20th century.

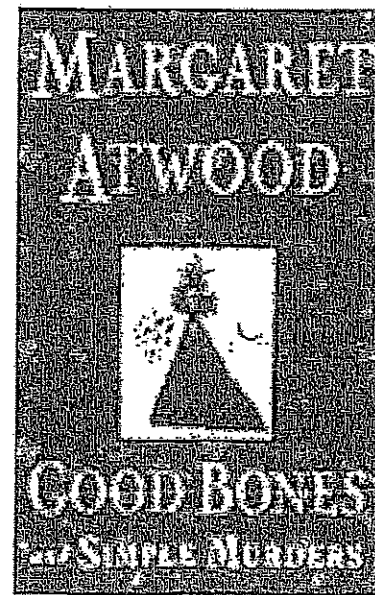


Woman in native Ukrainian dress in Battleford, Saskatchewan.

20 When will it all cave in? The sky, I mean; our networks; our intricate pretensions. We were too good at what we did, at being fruitful, at multiplying, and now there's too much breathing. We eat dangerous foods, our shit glows in the dark, the cells of our bodies turn on us like sharks. Every system is self-limiting. Will we solve ourselves as the rats do? With war, with plagues, with mass starvation? These thoughts come with breakfast, like the juice from murdered fruits. Your depression, my friend, is the revenge of the oranges.

30 But we still find the world astounding, we can't get enough of it; even as it shrivels, even as its many lights flicker and are extinguished (the tigers, the leopard frogs, the plunging dolphin flukes), flicker and are extinguished, by us, by us, we gaze and gaze. Where do you draw the line, between love and greed? We never did know, we always wanted more. We want to take it all in, for one last time, we want to eat the world with our eyes.

40 Better than the mouth, my darling. Better than the mouth.



Good Bones 1992

# ATWOOD



*We Want It All*

*Margaret Atwood*

What we want of course is the same old story. The trees pushing out their leaves, fluttering them, shucking them off, the water thrashing around in the oceans, the tweedling of the birds, the unfurling of the slugs, the worms vacuuming dirt. The zinnias and their pungent slow explosions. We want it all to go on and go on again, the same thing each year, monotonous and amazing, just as if we were still behaving ourselves, living in tents, raising sheep, slitting their throats for God's benefit, refusing to invent plastics. For unbelief and bathrooms you pay a price. If apples were the Devil's only bait we'd still be able to call our souls our own, but then the prick threw indoor plumbing into the bargain and we were doomed. Now we use up a lot of paper telling one another how to conserve paper, and the sea fills up with killer coffee cups, and we worry about the sun and its ambivalent rays.

## Aboriginal Canadians

Most archaeologists believe that the first inhabitants of North America crossed from Siberia to Alaska around 25,000 years ago. These hunter-nomads came in search of mammoth and bison, the ice-age animals that constituted their basic diet. The first wave of migrants was reinforced by a steady trickle of Siberian peoples over the next 15,000 years, and slowly the tribes worked their way east and south until they reached the Atlantic and South America. Over the centuries, the descendants of these hunter-nomads evolved a wide range of cultures, which were shaped by their particular environment. In the icy north or across the barren wastes of Newfoundland, life was austere; but the fertile soils of Ontario and the fish-rich shores of British Columbia nourished sophisticated societies based on fishing and farming.

The Iroquois spread along the St. Lawrence River and the shores of the Great Lakes were the Iroquois-speaking tribes, among whom were the Mohawks, the Huron, and the Seneca. These tribes hunted and fished, but they also cultivated beans, pumpkins, squash, and corn, growing everything in abundance for a year-round food supply. This enabled them to live in large villages, often with several hundred inhabitants. Their traditional dwelling was the longhouse, built of cedar poles bent to form a protective arch and covered with bark. These settlements were all surrounded by high palisades made of sharpened wooden stakes, a necessary precaution as warfare between the tribes was endemic.



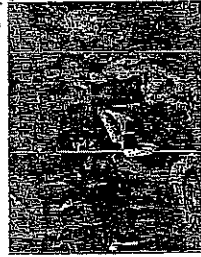
An Iroquois-built longhouse.

## The Plains Peoples

War was also commonplace on the plains of southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where the majority Blackfoot tribes were totally reliant on the buffalo; they ate the meat, used the hide for clothes and tents, and filed the bones into tools. The first Blackfoot hunted the buffalo by means of cleverly concealed traps, herding the animals, and stampeding them off steep cliffs (see p. 30). Originally, the horse was unknown to the original inhabitants of the Americas — their largest beast of burden was the dog — but the Spanish conquistadores brought the horse with them when they colonized South America in the 1500s. Thereafter, horses were slowly traded north, until they reached the Canadian plains. The arrival of the horse transformed Blackfoot life: it made the buffalo easy to hunt and, with a consistent food supply now assured, the tribe developed a militaristic culture, focusing particularly on the valor of their young men — the "braves."



A Blackfoot camp showing traditional tipis.



Europeans began to arrive in numbers during the 17th century in Newfoundland, the first part of Canada settled by whites. Intercultural relations were initially cordial but soured when new settlers encroached on ancient hunting grounds. In a pattern repeated across the continent, the First Peoples, many dying from European diseases, were driven to inhospitable lands.



Complimenting a 17th-century rifle of the Seneca tribe.

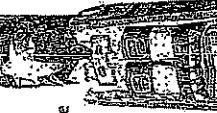
necessary precaution as warfare between the tribes was endemic.



First Nations people on horseback hunting bison with arrows.



**Peoples of the Pacific Coast**  
The First Nations peoples of the Pacific Coast were divided into a large number of small tribes such as the Tlingit and the Salish. The ocean was an abundant source of food, with this necessity taken care of, the First Nations developed an elaborate ceremonial life featuring large, and lively feasts, the potlachs, in which clans tried to outdo each other with the magnificence of their gifts. The peoples of this region were also superb woodcarvers; their most celebrated works of art being totem poles. Each pole featured a myth from the tribe's religion, magical birds and beasts mix with semi-human figures to tell a story in carved panels rising up the pole.

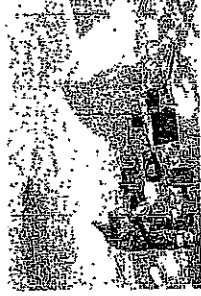


Totem pole in Stanley Park.

## Terminology

For Canadians, the words "Eskimo" and "Red Indian" or just "Indian" are unacceptable. They are seen as terms of abuse, as they hark back to times when whites dominated the country and crushed its original population. The word "Eskimo" has been replaced by "Inuit," but modern substitutes for "Indian" are not as clear-cut. Some people choose "Aboriginal," others prefer "Indigenous," and many speak of Canada's "First Peoples" or "First Nations." All are acceptable, but it is preferable to determine a specific tribe or band name, such as "Cree" or "Inuit."

**The Inuit and the Peoples of the Northern Forests**  
Stretching in a band from Alaska to Greenland, the far north was home to the Inuit, nomadic hunters who lived in skin tents in the summer and igloos in the winter. Arctic conditions and limited food supply meant that they foraged in small family groups and gathered together only in special circumstances — during the annual caribou migration, for instance. To the south of the Inuit, and also widespread across modern-day Canada, were the tribes of the northern forest, including the Naskapi, the Chipewyan, and the Wood Cree. These tribes were also nomadic hunters, dependent on fish and seal or deer and moose. Successful hunters earned prestige, and the tribal priest (shaman) was expected to keep the spirit world benevolent, but there was little other social organization.



An Inuit hunter by his igloo home.



Paul Oshik, Nunavut's first Premier, at his inauguration.

## Aboriginal Issues

Since the 1980s, Canada's Aboriginal peoples have recovered some of their self-confidence. A key development was the creation of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), an intertribal organization that has become an influential player on the national scene. In the 1980s, the AFN successfully argued for a greater degree of self-government on the reservations and tackled the federal government on land rights, sponsoring a series of court cases that highlighted the ways in which the Aboriginal population had been stripped of its territories. The AFN was also involved in the establishment of Nunavut (see p. 17), the homeland for the Inuit created in 1999 from part of the Northwest Territories. By comparison with their white compatriots, Canada's Aboriginal population remains, nonetheless, poor and disadvantaged. The rectification of historic wrongs will take decades, even assuming that the political will remains strong enough to improve matters.



## CANADIAN ENGLISH

Because of its origins (p. 95), Canadian English has a great deal in common with the rest of the English spoken in North America, and those who live outside Canada often find it difficult to hear the difference. Many British people identify a Canadian accent as American; many Americans identify it as British. Canadians themselves insist on not being identified with either group, and certainly the variety does display a number of unique features. In addition, the presence of French as a co-official language, chiefly spoken in Quebec, produces a sociolinguistic situation not found in other English-speaking countries.

One of the most distinctive characteristics of Canadian English stems from the tension which inevitably exists in such a situation. Both British and American models have supplied the variety with features from the outset, and continue to do so (though with US English tending now to dominate, especially among younger people). The consequence is a sociolinguistic situation of some complexity, with some linguistic features used throughout Canada (or nearly so) and others varying in relation to such factors as age, sex, education, occupation, geographical location, and political viewpoint. Four types of distinctiveness need to be recognized.

- Some features originate within Canada, and are thus independent of US or UK models. A number of them (such as the technical terms of ice hockey) have become part of World Standard English (p. 92).

- Some features originate outside Canada (chiefly US English, UK English, and French), and are used consistently by everyone in a particular region. A national example is the contrast between (federal) *prime minister* and (provincial) *premier*; a regional one, the names of political or cultural institutions in Quebec (e.g. *bloc québécois*, *caisse populaire*, p. 303).

- Some features can be identified with US English, and are used only by sections of the population.

- Some features can be identified with UK English, and are used only by sections of the population.

It is these last two categories which present real difficulties for anyone wishing to generalize about Canadian English. Or, putting this another way, it is precisely this problem which captures the uniqueness of the Canadian linguistic situation. (See also the photographic collage at the opening to Part V, p. 282).



## SPELLING VARIATION

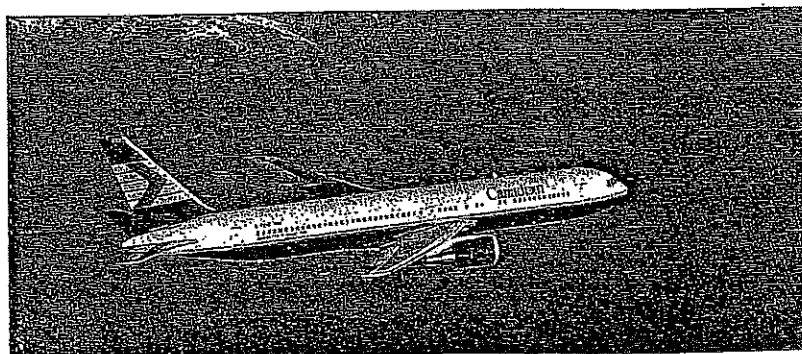
Spellings such as the above, with a US form (*tire*) juxtaposed with a UK form (*centre*) are striking (at least to a linguist) when they occur, and show that Canadian English cannot be identified with either American or British English. It is important not to over-estimate this issue: we may read pages of a Canadian newspaper (p. 303) and not see a comparable instance. However, if we search for instances of words where a spelling choice is possible, we will soon find an unusual aggregation of forms.

Moreover, surveys of individual spelling practices have brought to light considerable geographical, occupational, and social variation: for example, in a 1991 report, over 80 per cent of high-school students in Ontario were said to be spelling words like *colour* with *-our*, while over 60 per cent of their counterparts in Alberta were using *-or*. The

US model seems to be becoming more widespread in popular publications, and the press on the whole uses US spelling (but see p. 303). British spelling, however, is the norm in learned journals and school textbooks. And juxtapositions of the two models are common in private correspondence: the author has one letter from a Canadian in which *cheque* and *program* (radio, not computer) co-occur, and another from a different correspondent in which *initialed* appears alongside *plough* (p. 307).

## Vocabulary

Similarly, both US and UK models provide sources for vocabulary. British *tap* (US *faucet*), *railway* (US *railroad*), and *braces* (US *suspenders*) coexist alongside US *gas* (UK *petrol*), *sidewalk* (UK *pavement*) and *wrench* (UK *spanner*), though usage varies from place to place. Vehicle terms (p. 310) are typically American: *truck*, *trailer*, *trunk*, etc.



Conflicts over spelling may take place between languages. Thus it is a matter of sociolinguistic identity within Quebec whether one spells the name of the province with or without an accent

(Québec). The problem facing the airline which is called *Canadian* in English and *Canadien* in French was ingeniously solved through the use of the company logo.

75 It was this third voyage that accidentally proved his most successful. Hudson had determined views on routes and agendas. Although his Dutch contract committed him to pursuing the eastwards route around the Pole he had attempted before, faced once more with extreme cold and floating ice, Hudson impetuously decided to abandon this shortly after embarkation. Instead he headed westwards towards North America, to take up a suggestion of Captain John Smith's (the first Governor of Virginia) that a northerly navigable river might lead across the continent, and out the other side to the Spice Islands.

80 On 12 September 1609, the *Half Moon* entered the mouth of what is now called the Hudson River – 'as fine a river as can be found, wide and deep, with good anchoring ground on both sides', 'a very good harbour for all winds', according to a contemporary account. The land around was 'very pleasant and high'.

90 They were in the outer reaches of what today is New York harbour, riding along the coast of Staten Island. Fish swam around them in shoals. When they anchored and went ashore, they found 'friendly and polite people, who had an abundance of provisions, skins, and furs, of martens and foxes, and many other commodities, as birds and fruit, even white and red grapes, and they traded amicably with the people.' But sailing up the broad river as far as what is today Albany, the water became 'sweet' (not salty) and too shallow for a seagoing ship to pass. So this was not the route Hudson was looking for.

100 But on Hudson's return, his Dutch backers quickly recognised that the area of the New World Hudson had explored was worth further exploration and exploitation. The history of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island (famously acquired in 1626 from the Indian tribe that lived there for goods to the value of 60 guilders) is a rich one in its own right. Had that pivotal North American colony not been seized by the British 38 years later, the entire western world might today be speaking Dutch.

110 The search for the Northwest Passage continued down to the nineteenth century. In 1845, Sir John Franklin with two ships and a crew of more than 120 men disappeared without trace in the Arctic wastes. By that time the commercial world was beginning to direct its efforts to improve long distance trade routes elsewhere, leading eventually to the building of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the Panama Canal in 1914.

25 ditions there would have been no financial backers. The existing sea-route eastwards round the Cape of Good Hope, to India, China and the Spice Islands with their rich resources of pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg, was long and dangerous. If a way could be found from the Atlantic Ocean  
30 into the Pacific which stayed close to the North Pole, the new class of entrepreneurial merchants would be able to undercut their rivals by having their sea-captains bring their exotic cargoes home faster and more economically.

In 1566, in his *Discourse of a Discoverie for a new Passage*  
35 *to Cataia [China]*, the English mariner Sir Humphrey Gilbert urged Queen Elizabeth I to support the search for the Northwest Passage in terms which still resonate today:

40 'It were the only way for our princes to possess the wealth of all the east parts (as they term them) of the world, which is infinite... For, through the shortness of the voyage, we should be able to sell all manner of merchandise brought from thence far better cheap than either the Portuguese or Spaniard doth or may do.'

Eye-witness accounts survive of several of the early  
45 failed attempts to find a navigable way round (or through) the new continent. The sailors who limped home on their battered and broken ships, convey with shocking vividness the punishing effects of the extreme cold and the treacherously mobile ice floes, the relentlessly destructive effects  
50 of hunger and exhaustion. Whole expeditions perished, some of their bodies discovered many years later, frozen and intact in the hulls of their ships.

These early explorers never succeeded in finding their  
55 shortcut. But in the process of failing to reach their El Dorado, they stumbled upon other, hitherto unknown territories, which turned out to be of equivalent, if not greater importance for success in a newly global economy.

The English mariner Henry Hudson made four attempts  
60 at finding a passage through Arctic waters between 1607 and 1611. His determination to prove that such a route existed bordered on the obsessive. On the final attempt, both he and his son John perished, set adrift in an open boat by their mutinous crew, who balked at the prospect of another prolonged period of fruitlessly negotiating the  
65 never-ending frozen wastes in the region subsequently named Hudson Bay.

For his first two attempts, Hudson sailed due north from  
70 England, then turned eastwards to try to skirt the northern coast of Russia. Almost locked in to a frozen sea off the island of Nova Zembla, he was forced to turn back, and his backers abandoned him. Undeterred, Hudson found a new investor in the form of the Dutch East India Company, and set off again in the summer of 1609 on his ship the *Half Moon*.

## UNIQUE FEATURES

Canadian English is not solely identified by its unusual distribution of US and UK linguistic characteristics. There are several features which seem to be unique to the variety, and which are often deliberately identified with Canadian speakers in such contexts as joke-telling, satire, and literary characterization.

- In pronunciation, there are two main identifying features – notably the sound of the diphthong /ai/ and /au/ before voiceless consonants in such words as *house* and *fight*. The effect has been referred to as 'Canadian raising': the first element of the diphthong is articulated higher and in a more central position than would be heard in RP or nearby US accents, in the area of [ə] (p. 240), so that *out* sounds more like RP *oot* and *isle* more like *oil*. The other chief distinction is the way Canadians pronounce such pairs of words as *cot* and *caught* or *collar* and *caller* with the same short vowel. Such a merger can be heard in some parts of the USA, but not just those bordering on Canada.

- An important characteristic of the vocabulary is the use of many words and phrases originating in Canada itself. These are often borrowings from Native American languages, some of which have entered the variety directly, some through the medium of French. A few have become a part of World Standard English. Examples include *caribou*, *chesterfield* ('sofa'), *kayak*, *kerosene*, *mukluk* ('Inuit boot'), *parka*, *reeve* ('mayor'), and *skookum* ('strong'). Terms reflecting Canadian culture include *riding* (a political constituency), *first nations* (the indigenous peoples), *bannock* (a type of pancake), the *prime minister/premier* distinction (p. 340), and many items to do with fur trading, lumbering, mining, and local fauna and flora. There are around 10,000 distinctive words and senses listed in the *Dictionary of Canadianisms*, though many of these are restricted to certain localities.

- A striking discourse feature is the use of *eh?* as a tag (p. 218), often replacing a tag question, but often with a less specific intent during a narrative sentence: *He finally gets to the garage, eh, and the car's gone*. The form is usually spoken with a rising intonation, and is used by the speaker with various functions, such as checking that the speaker is sympathetically attending, or anticipating a point of special interest in the narrative. A similar form may be heard in several other parts of the world, such as in Scotland, Australia, and Jamaica, though not with such frequency, and usually lacking the narrative function.

## THE ROCK

The dialect of Newfoundland, locally known as 'the Rock', displays many differences from the rest of English-speaking Canada. It was not settled by United Empire Loyalists after the American Revolution, unlike other parts of E Canada (p. 95); and it received large numbers of immigrants from south-east Ireland and south-west England, especially in the first half of the 19th century.

The island's political history and its geographical isolation from the rest of Canada helped to preserve many dialect features from the British Isles. Phonological examples (see §17) include the use of a clear /l/ in such words as *pull*; an extra (epenthetic) vowel, as in *film* /fɪlɪm/; and a plosive replacing the dental fricative, in such words as *this* and *thin* (p. 337). Such distinctive features, in exaggerated form, have formed a stereotype of 'Newfie' speech which is a source of humour on the mainland.

There are also several signs of Hiberno-English grammar (p. 338), such as *yiz* or *youise* as the plural of 'you', inflected *be* (*I bees here*), and perfective *after* (*I'm after losing it*). Among many local words are *scoff* ('large meal'), *praties* ('potatoes'), *bake-apples* (a type of berry), *screech* (a type of rum), *outport* (a fishing settlement), *bayman* (an inhabitant of an outport), and *Newfs* ('Newfoundlanders'), a label sometimes used derogatorily by mainlanders.

In recent decades, there has been a major shift in the status of the island. Newfoundland's important strategic role in World War 2 was followed by a change in its political status (from British dominion to Canadian province) in 1949. Today, as ties with Britain become more distant, and contact with mainland Canada and the USA becomes routine through the media, it is likely that these changes will have far-reaching effects on the character of Newfoundland speech.

## CANADIAN DIALECTS

There is a traditional view that there are no dialects in Canadian English – that it is not possible for Canadians to tell where other Canadians are from just by listening to them – and the term ‘General Canadian’ has been used to capture this concept. While certainly there is a greater degree of dialect homogeneity in the country compared with, say, the UK, this view is far from the truth. It would be surprising if it were otherwise, given the great size of Canada and the geographical distances separating its communities. The impression of a universally used dialect is due chiefly to the existence of an educated Canadian variety of Standard English, heard across the country through radio and television. At a local level (moving from east to west), several dialect areas have been recognized, and although few signs of regional grammatical variation have yet been identified, there is an appreciable amount of lexical divergence.

• The Atlantic Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, the first part of Canada to be settled (p. 95), have long been recognized as a distinct linguistic region. The area also includes the island of Newfoundland, which has its own dialect identity, often referred to as ‘Newfie’, and (in common with relatively isolated communities all over the world) a source of national dialect humour. Local words for sea-going and fishing activities are notable, as are weather words such as *tempest* (an ordinary storm) and *trap smasher* (a severe storm). There are many local products, including *grunt* (a type of steamed pudding), *snits* (‘dried apple slices’), *larrigan* (a type of footwear), and *water horse* (‘salted cod’).

• Quebec, dominated by the issue of bilingualism, shows the effects of language contact, with several words which reflect French political and cultural institutions being part of the Anglophone population. Loanwords of a more general kind include *caleche* (a type of horsedrawn vehicle), *double window* (a storm window), *whisky blanc* (an alcoholic drink), and *professor* (in the sense of ‘school teacher’). In an area where language attitudes are strong, of course, the extent to which Anglophone people are prepared to use words which are perceived to be French in origin varies greatly.

• The Ottawa Valley, a region west of Ottawa along the Ottawa River in Ontario, is known for its history of settlement involving immigrants from Scotland and Ireland. Constructions such as *They’re after leaving* will be heard (p. 338), as well as such items as *mind* (‘remember’), and they have contributed to a

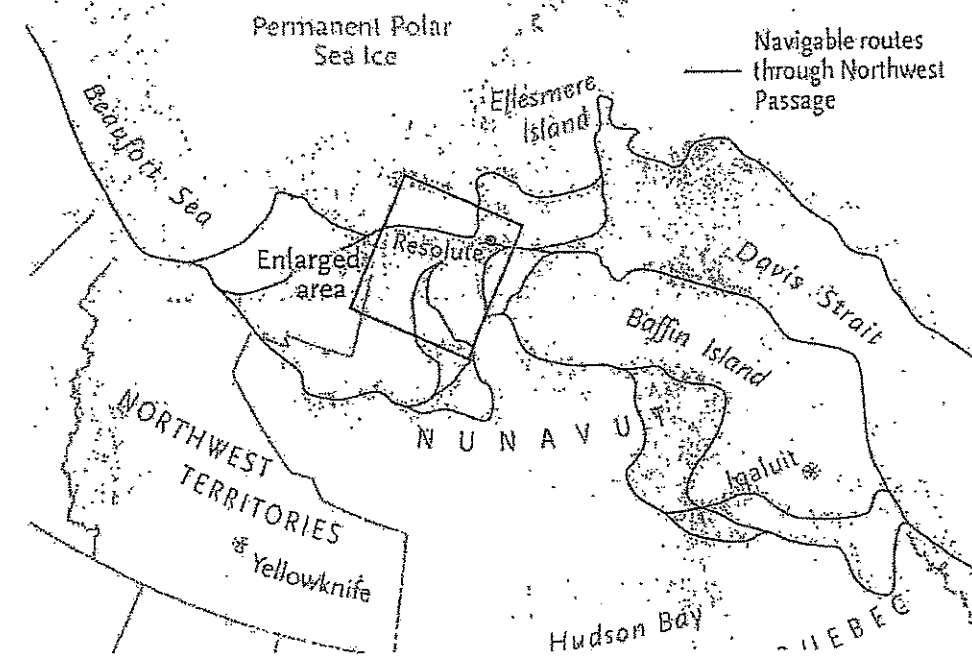
rural image of the area. Canadian raising (p. 341) is heard in words with both voiced and voiceless consonants; for example, *house* as noun and as verb both have /ɔɪ/ (in other parts of the country, only the noun would be affected).

• Southern Ontario, the area originally known as Upper Canada (p. 95), along the northern shore of the lower Great Lakes, is now the most populated part of the country. Its role in Canada’s early history produced a number of political and cultural terms which later came into more widespread Canadian use, such as *reeve*, *riding*, *continuation school* (‘secondary school’), and *concession* (an area of surveyed land), and it has also developed a great deal of distinctive urban speech. Among its local words are *eavestrough* (‘roof gutter’) and *dew worm* (‘earthworm’).

• The Prairies, in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, comprise a huge area with a largely homogeneous dialect fostered chiefly by the communication lines brought by the transport system, especially the railway. The grain, cattle, and oil industries each have their distinctive local vocabulary, such as *Dry Belt* (an arid southern area), *stampede* (‘rodeo’), and *oil borer* (‘oil driller’). More general terms include *nuisance grounds* (‘rubbish dump’), *bluff* (a clump of trees), and *chuck* (‘food’). Local native languages have supplied some items, such as *kinnikinnik* (a type of smoking mixture) and *saskatoon* (a kind of shrub).

• The Arctic North, covering the Yukon, Northwest Territories, N Quebec, and Labrador, is known for Inuit-derived forms such as *kabloona* (‘white man’), *basket sled* (a type of sledge), *fun hitch* (of dog teams), *angakok* (‘shaman’), *tupik* (a type of tent), and *chimo* (a drinking toast). Many words from the area have entered Standard English, such as *igloo* and *white out*. The fur trade has also been important: a *factory*, for example, is a fur-trading post, and a *factor* its senior officer.

• The West, in British Columbia, and centred on Vancouver, is separated from the rest of the country by the Rocky Mountains, and this has motivated a high level of north-south movement along the Pacific Coast. As a result, parts of the area – and especially Vancouver itself – are strongly influenced by US English norms. The influence of regional native languages is also present, resulting in such local lexical usages as *keekwillee-house* (a type of earth lodge), *salt-chuck* (‘ocean’), and *kokanee* (‘land-locked salmon’). There is a distinctive vocabulary to do with local industries, notably mining and forestry (*logging*, *rigging*, *yarding*, *caulk*, *boom chairs*, *jackladder*), with many of the terms now part of Standard English.



Amid the arguments to and fro about the true extent of global warming, and the degree to which responsible people ought to be alarmed, I find one recent piece of news of the consequences of climate change particularly arresting.

Warming temperatures are melting the Arctic sea ice, making hitherto inaccessible stretches of the Arctic Ocean fully navigable. This September, satellite images showed the Northwest Passage to be ice free for the first time since records began, allowing shipping to travel comparatively unhindered from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

For more than five hundred years, since Columbus first encountered the continent of America, European mariners have dreamed of finding and navigating a Northwest Passage – a direct shipping route from Europe to Asia across the Arctic Ocean. It ought surely to be possible, they argued, to sail from European ports northwards along the coast of Greenland, then westwards along an Arctic parallel, round Baffin Island off the northern coast of Canada, entering the Pacific between Alaska and Russia.

The search, in the sixteenth century, for a corridor between the frozen northern wastes and the treacherous ice floes was driven by intense international competition and commercial pressures. Indeed, without the promise of financial gain riding on the outcome of these costly expe-



4  
railway unites the St. Lawrence basin to the Atlantic, between the Maritime provinces and the settled part of Quebec there still juts up a great area of rock and river and forest, the paradise of sportsmen, but ill-fitted for a resident population.

Sault Ste. Marie, at the junction of lake Superior and lake Huron, marks the limit of western settlement in the St. Lawrence basin, and from here to Winnipeg, a distance of at least 800 miles, there is little settlement in the tumbled rock, lake, and forest of the Canadian Shield, save at the head of lake Superior, where the shipping towns of Port Arthur and Fort William [now Thunder Bay] have grown up to trans-ship the western grain crop. The barrier thrown by the Rocky mountains between the Pacific coast and the prairies is plain to the eye.

Yet to a large extent man has conquered nature. Through these apparent waste stretches oases of settlement have sprung up; here a mining camp; there a fertile patch of land; here the needs of the tourist have attracted permanent settlement. In older countries the railways follow settlement; in North America they precede and allure it. The Intercolonial and the Canadian Pacific Railways bound Canada together. Settlement grew up along them, and their numerous branches. The Canadian National gives also a certain solidity. Canada is now finding the maintenance of her railways a burden; that there was extravagance of construction is certain; but in the main the burden is the price which she pays for her unity.

Lakes and Rivers. Such natural unity as Canada has is given by rivers and waterways. As a result of her geological structure, all Canada, save the prairies, is lavishly strewn with lakes of all sizes, from bodies of water hundreds of miles long and a thousand feet deep to ponds lost to sight in the forest. The largest and most thickly strewn lakes occur within five hundred or a thousand miles of Hudson bay, and belong to the Archaean protaxis or project beyond its edges into the Palaeozoic sedimentary rocks which lean against it. The most famous are those of the St. Lawrence system; but many others have from their magnitude the right to be called "Great Lakes".

The same geological structure makes Canada peculiarly rich in water-power both in the Laurentian and in the Cordilleran areas, and has greatly aided in her manufacturing development. Coal is found chiefly on the extreme east and west; but the waterways enable it to be carried for long distances; and with this and her water-power she has reached a height of manufacturing development.

She is thus bound together by waterways and railways. At the same time, it is almost certainly true that had it not been for her history, and more especially for the early French settlements, she would today be part of the United States. The French settlements in and about Quebec and Montreal, which had fallen into British hands in 1763 gave her a nucleus around which the Loyalists could settle twenty years later after the American revolution.

Extract from Michael Ondaatje, *In The Skin of A Lion*, Picador, 1988

But it was a spell of language that brought Nicholas here, arriving in Canada without a passport in 1924, a great journey made in silence. Hanging under the bridge, he describes the adventure to himself, just as he was told a fairy tale of Upper America by those who returned to the Macedonian villages, those first travellers who were the judas goats to the west.

Daniel Stoyanoff had tempted them all. In North America everything was rich and dangerous. You went in as a sojourner and came back wealthy - Daniel buying a farm with the compensation he had received for losing an arm during an accident in a meat factory. Laughing about it! Banging his other hand down hard onto the table and wheezing with laughter, calling them all fools, sheep! As if his arm had been a dry cow he had fooled the Canadians with.

Nicholas had been stunned by the simplicity of the contract.

neously by at least seventy people, and so tended to lose its spontaneity. When the matinee idol Wayne Burnett dropped dead during a performance, a Sicilian butcher took over, knowing his lines and his blocking meticulously, and money did not have to be refunded.

Certain actors were popular because they spoke slowly. Lethargic ballads, and a kind of blues where the first line of a verse is repeated three times, were in great demand. Sojourners walked out of their accent into regional American voices. Nicholas, unfortunately, would later choose Fats Waller as his model and so his emphasis on usually unnoticed syllables and the throwaway lines made him seem high-strung or dangerously anti-social or too loving.

But during the time he worked on the bridge, he was seen as a recluse. He would begin sentences in his new language, muster, and walk away. He became a vault of secrets and memories.

He took a train for Toronto where there were many from his village; he would not be among strangers. But there was no work. So he took a train north to Copper Cliff, near Sudbury, and worked there in a Macedonian bakery. He was paid seven dollars a month with food and sleeping quarters. After six months he went to Sault Ste. Marie. He still could hardly speak English and decided to go to school, working nights in another Macedonian bakery. If he did not learn the language he would be lost.

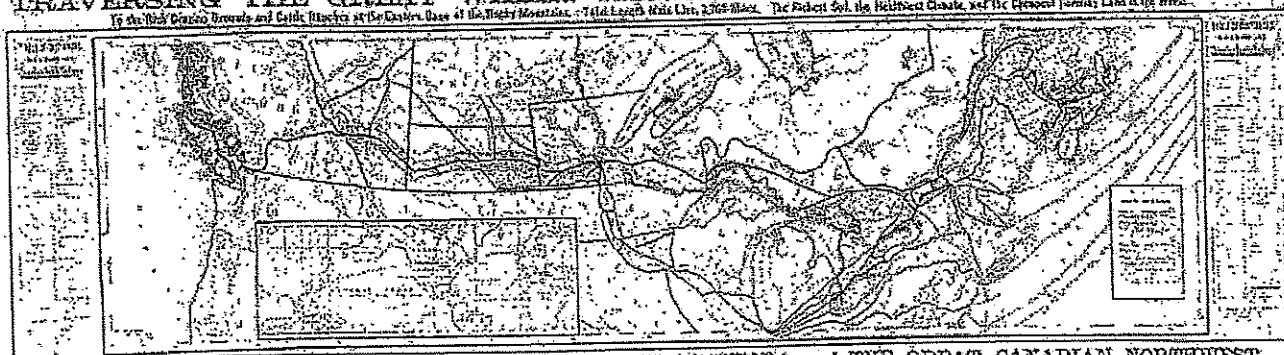
The school was free. The children in the class were ten years old and he was twenty-six. He used to get up at two in the morning and make dough and bake till 8:30. At nine he would go to school. The teachers were all young ladies and were very good people. During this time in the Sault he had translation dreams - because of his fast and obsessive studying of English. In the dreams trees changed not just their names but their looks and character. Men started answering in falsettos. Dogs spoke out fast to him as they passed him on the street.

When he returned to Toronto all he needed was a voice for all this language. Most immigrants learned their English from recorded songs or, until the talkies came, through mimicking actors on stage. It was a common habit to select one actor and follow him throughout his career, annoyed when he was given a small part, and seeing each of his plays as often as possible - sometimes as often as ten times during a run. Usually by the end of an east-end production at the Fox or Parrot Theatres the actors' speeches would be followed by growing echoes as Macedonians, Finns, and Greeks repeated the phrases after a half-second pause, trying to get the pronunciation right.

This infuriated the actors, especially when a line such as "Who put the stove in the living room, Kristin?" - which had originally brought the house down - was now spoken simulta-

# THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

TRAVERSING THE GREAT WHEAT REGION OF THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST



A FEW FACTS WORTHY OF CAREFUL READING ABOUT MANITOBA and THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTHWEST.

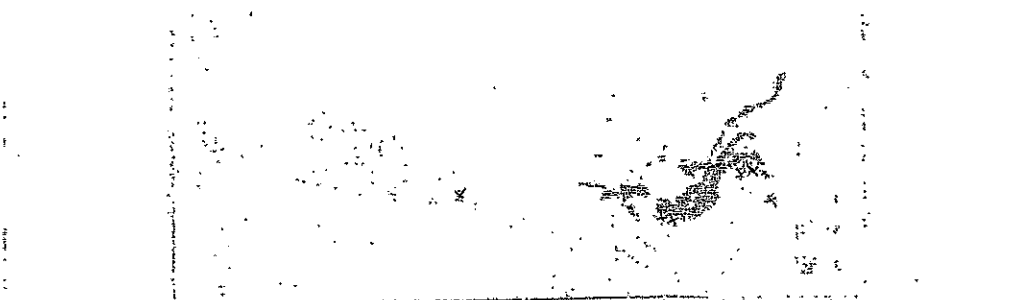
A multitude of languages are used in Canada. According to the 2011 census, English and French are the tongues of 56.9% and 21.3% of Canadians respectively. However, marking the steady decline in use of the French language by Canadians and new immigrants, the same census paints a gloomier picture of the survival of French as a second language for the country. Over 85% of Canadians have working knowledge of English while only 30.1% have a working knowledge of French. This is partly due to many French-speaking Canadians learning English and to more immigrants choosing to learn English as their second language rather than French. The steady decline in use of the French language led to the highly controversial Official Languages Act of 1969. The act was introduced to enforce use of the French language in an effort to preserve the culture of French Canadians who played a significant role in Canadian heritage. Under the Canadian Constitution, the federal government has both English and French as its official languages in respect of all government services, including the courts, and all federal legislation is enacted bilingually. New Brunswick is the only Canadian province that has both English and French as its official languages to the same extent, with constitutional entrenchment. Quebec's official language is French, although in that province, the Constitution requires that all legislation be enacted in both French and English, and court proceedings may be conducted in either language. Similar constitutional protections are in place in Manitoba.

Many Canadians believe that the relationship between the English and French languages is the central or defining aspect of the Canadian experience. Canada's Official Languages Commissioner (the federal government official charged with monitoring the two languages) has stated, "[I]n the same way that race is at the core of what it means to be American and at the core of an American experience and class is at the core of British experience, I think that language is at the core of Canadian experience."

To assist in more accurately monitoring the two official languages, Canada's census collects a number of demolinguistic descriptors not enumerated in the censuses of most other countries, including home language, mother tongue, first official language and language of work.

Canada's linguistic diversity extends beyond the two official languages. "In Canada, 4.7 million people (14.2% of the population) reported speaking a language other than English or French most often at home and 1.9 million people (5.8%) reported speaking such a language on a regular basis as a second language (in addition to their main home language, English or French). In all, 20.0% of Canada's population reported speaking a language other than English or French at home. For roughly 6.4 million people, the other language was an immigrant language, spoken most often or on a regular basis at home, alone or together with English or French whereas for more than 213,000 people, the other language was an Aboriginal language. Finally, the number of people reporting sign languages as the languages spoken at home was nearly 25,000 people (15,000 most often and 9,800 on a regular basis)."<sup>[nb 2]</sup>

Canada is also home to many indigenous languages. Taken together, these are spoken by less than one percent of the population. About .6% Canadians (or 200,725 people) report an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue.



The Bilingual Belt. In most of Canada, either English or French is predominant. Only in the intermittent "belt" stretching between northern Ontario and northern New Brunswick, and in a few other isolated pockets, do the two languages mix on a regular basis.

- English
- English and French (Bilingual Belt)
- French
- Sparsely populated areas (< 0.4 persons per km<sup>2</sup>)

**Climate and Rainfall.** Climate, or seasonal variation of heat and cold, is conditioned by two main factors, latitude and distance from warm oceans. The varied relief of the land in mountains, high plateaus, and low-lying plains or valleys, is an additional factor of special importance locally. The northern situation of Canada as a whole implies severe winter cold except where a near-lying ocean may exert a moderating influence. This influence is found along the western coast, where the warm moist air from the north Pacific current sweeps over the whole Cordilleran region, and in the most northern part, where the mountain ranges are lower, even penetrates beyond them as far as the valley of the Mackenzie river. An abundant rainfall accompanies the passage of the warm air, producing rich vegetation on the western slopes of the mountain ranges. The Arctic ocean being largely covered with ice-floes in winter is negligible as a factor in the climate of its coasts, as is also Hudson bay, except for a moderate distance from its shores. On the east the Atlantic along the coast of Labrador is a cold body of water, and has little effect on the climate of the peninsula, but further south the warm current known as the Gulf Stream is not far away from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, and these provinces in consequence have a milder winter than their latitude would imply. The valley of the St. Lawrence is also to some extent affected by the proximity of the Atlantic, and southern Ontario, partly on account of its projection into lower latitudes, partly from the ameliorating influence of the Great lakes which surround it, enjoys a temperate climate without extremes either of heat or cold. All these eastern provinces have an abundant rainfall, sufficient for the growth of fine timber as well as for agriculture. The provinces of the great plain, far from oceans and wholly north of latitude 49°, are subject to extremes of heat in summer and cold in winter. The amount of precipitation, whether snow or rain, is sufficient for agriculture except in the extreme south of Saskatchewan and Alberta, where semi-arid areas are found. But the southern part of the great plain is without trees except along the courses of rivers and streams. Further north in all the three prairie provinces a low growth of soft-wood trees begins, and extends to form a wide belt of northern forest, becoming more stunted as it reaches northward, until it disappears and gives place to the vast tundra, known as the Barren Lands, which stretches to the Arctic coast.

**Lack of Unity.** From this description it is obvious that much of Canada lies so far to the north that it can never support a large population. Along the Peace river and as far north as Great Slave lake the long hot days enable wheat to be grown and farming to be carried on, even though the summer is comparatively short. The total land area of the ten provinces is estimated at 1,309,724,800 acres. Of this total area approximately 358,162,190 acres are fit for agricultural settlement, of which at present about 141,000,000 are occupied.

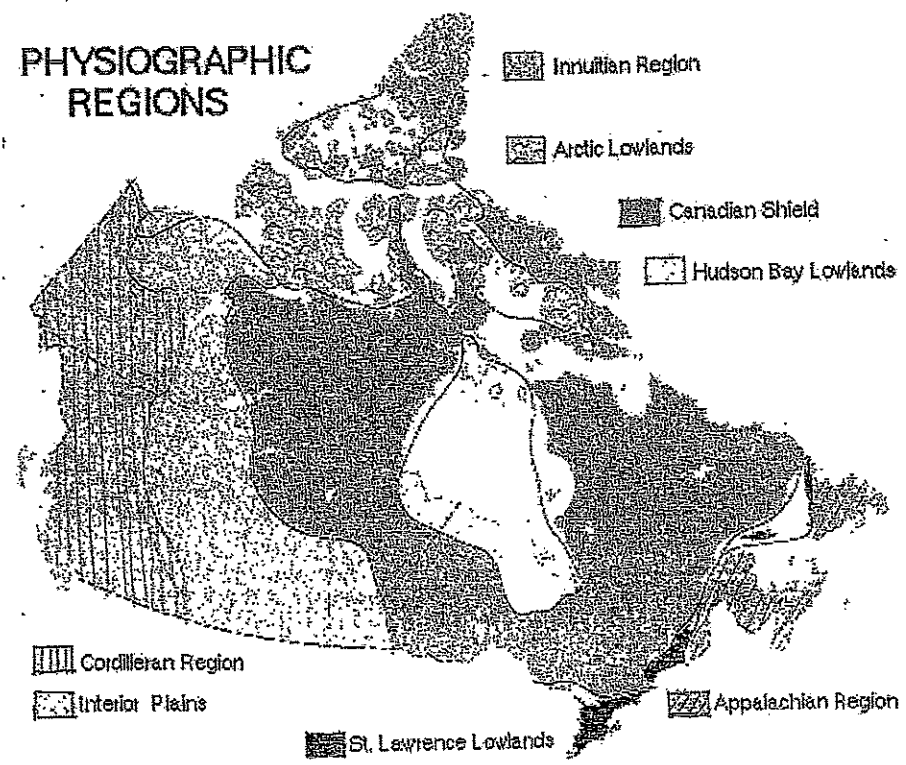
In a very real sense Canada is an artificial country, bound together by railways. In 1891 Canada was described as "four separate projections of the cultivable and habitable part of the continent into Arctic waste. . . . these blocks of territory are not contiguous, but are divided from each other by great barriers of nature" (Goldwin Smith, *Canada and the Canadian question*, 1891).

The first settlements which grew up in the valley of the St. Lawrence were French, and formed a nucleus, to which after the American revolution was added a large accretion of Loyalists in Upper Canada (now Ontario). In the nineteenth century the natural increase, especially of the French, and a considerable immigration, raised the population of this central area to over 2,500,000; but it was cut off from the sea for five months of the year. Confederation in 1867 added Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Of these the former was inhabited mainly by descendants of English and Scotch settlers, the latter by Loyalists. They had harbours open the year around, and the Intercolonial Railway, which unites them to the central core, was deemed to be so important that a promise of its construction was made a part of the British North America Act [now called the Constitution Act, 1867], which gave legal sanction to the federation. But though the

Geography of Canada (summary based on a text written by William L. Grant in 1948.)

The Dominion of Canada comprises the whole northern half of the North American continent except the United States territory of Alaska. It also includes all the large islands off the coast (including Newfoundland), and the Arctic archipelago between Davis strait and the 141st meridian.

The main features of the physical geography of Canada are those of the whole continent. The western half of North America, geologically the most recent, is uniform from north to south. A great central plain stretches from the Arctic ocean to the gulf of Mexico, with a very moderate watershed near the southern boundary of Canada. Between the great plain and the Pacific ocean rises a broad mountain belt, the North American Cordillera, unbroken from one end to the other. In the eastern half of the continent there has been a different process of development. Most of eastern Canada is occupied by what is called the Archaean shield or protaxis, the nucleus of the entire continent, perhaps the oldest land now visible above the oceans. As the name implies, it is a shield-shaped or roughly triangular plateau of very ancient rocks, with a surface highly irregular, in the centre of which a great depression is filled by the waters of Hudson bay. It extends to the Arctic and Atlantic oceans on the north and north-east; its south-eastern edge bounds the valley-plain of the St. Lawrence river and estuary; and its south-western and western limit is marked by a series of great lakes, Huron, Superior, Winnipeg, Athabaska, Great Slave lake, and Great Bear lake, beyond which lies the great plain. A deep cleavage south of the Archaean shield, occupied by the valley of the southern chain of great lakes and their effluent, the St. Lawrence river and estuary, divides the eastern half of the continent, the southern portion having no structural correspondence with the northern. The Appalachian mountain region south of the St. Lawrence valley is, however, represented in Canada by its northern extremity, constituting the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the Gaspé peninsula in the province of Québec, but these lie wholly south of the cleft of the St. Lawrence. The great natural divisions of Canada are, therefore, from west to east, the Cordillera or mountain region, the great plain, the Archaean plateau, the valley-plain of the Great lakes and St. Lawrence, and farthest east, the tip of the Appalachian plateau. Another division is constituted by the Arctic archipelago, which is not a part of the Archaean shield, but its structure is not yet fully known. North America, like the other continental masses, has developed its greatest breadth towards the north, becoming narrower further south and tapering almost to a point at the southern extremity. The greatest breadth of the continent is thus found in Canada, where along the 52nd parallel of latitude a continuous land surface, interrupted only by the south end of James bay, extends for about 3,400 miles [5480 km] from the coast of Labrador to that of British Columbia.



The following table details the population of each province and territory, with summary national totals, by language spoken most often in the home as reported in the Canada 2011 Census ("Home language").

Province/Territory	Total population	English	%	French	%	Other languages	%	Official language(s)
Ontario	12,722,065	10,044,810	78.95%	284,120	2.23%	1,827,870	14.36%	English (de facto)
Quebec	7,815,955	767,415	9.81%	6,249,080	79.96%	554,405	7.09%	French <sup>[8]</sup>
British Columbia	4,356,205	3,506,600	80.49%	16,685	0.38%	670,895	15.38%	English (de facto)
Alberta	3,610,185	3,085,255	85.73%	24,690	0.68%	379,550	10.51%	English (de facto)
Manitoba	1,193,095	1,007,325	84.42%	17,950	1.5%	125,285	10.5%	English and French
Saskatchewan	1,018,310	938,170	92.13%	4,295	0.42%	59,240	5.81%	English and French (English predominates)
Nova Scotia	910,620	868,765	95.40%	15,940	1.75%	18,510	2.03%	English (de facto)
New Brunswick	739,895	512,115	69.21%	209,885	28.36%	9,310	1.25%	English, French
Newfoundland and Labrador	509,950	502,475	98.53%	1,145	0.22%	5,000	0.98%	English (de facto)
Prince Edward Island	138,435	132,200	95.49%	2,465	1.78%	2,925	2.11%	English (de facto)
Northwest Territories	41,040	36,485	88.9%	555	1.35%	3,620	8.8%	Chipewyan, Cree, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey, Tlicho <sup>[10]</sup>
Yukon	33,655	31,025	92.18%	820	2.43%	1,240	3.68%	English, French
Nunavut	31,765	14,440	45.45%	245	0.77%	16,820	52.95%	Inuit language (Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun), English, French <sup>[11]</sup>
Canada	33,121,175	21,457,080	64.78%	6,827,880	20.61%	3,673,885	11.09%	English, French

**Bilingualism**

According to the 2011 census 94.3% of Quebecers have knowledge of French, and 47.2% have knowledge of English. Bilingualism (of the two official languages) is largely limited to Quebec itself, and to a strip of territory sometimes referred to as the "bilingual belt", that stretches east from Quebec into northern New Brunswick and west into parts of Ottawa and northeastern Ontario. 85% of bilingual Canadians live within Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick. A majority of all bilingual Canadians, (57.4%) are themselves Quebecers, and a high percentage of the bilingual population in the rest of Canada resides in close proximity to the Quebec border.

Similarly, the rate of bilingualism in Quebec has risen higher, and more quickly than in the rest of Canada. In Quebec the rate of bilingualism has increased from 26% of the population being able to speak English and French in 1951 to 42.5% in 2011. As of 2011, in the rest of Canada (excluding Quebec) the rate of bilingualism was 7.5%.

French-English bilingualism is highest among members of local linguistic minorities [edit]

It is very uncommon for Canadians to be capable of speaking only the minority official language of their region (French outside of Quebec or English in Quebec). Only 1.5% of Canadians are able to speak only the minority official language, and of these most (90%) live in the bilingual belt.

As the table below shows, rates of bilingualism are much higher among individuals who belong to the linguistic minority group for their region of Canada, than among members of the local linguistic majority. For example, within Quebec around 37% of bilingual Canadians are Francophones, whereas Francophones only represent 4.5% of the population outside of Quebec.

Rates of French-English bilingualism among linguistic groups.

	Anglophones	Francophones	Allophones
Quebec	66.1%	36.6%	50.4%
Rest of Canada	7.1%	85.1%	5.7%



### Pidgins, mixed languages, & trade languages

In Canada as elsewhere in the world of European colonization, the frontier of European exploration and settlement tended to be a linguistically diverse and fluid place, as cultures using different languages met and interacted. The need for a common means of communication between the indigenous inhabitants and new arrivals for the purposes of trade and (in some cases) intermarriage led to the development of hybrid languages. These languages tended to be highly localized, were often spoken by only a small number of individuals who were frequently capable of speaking another language, and often persisted only briefly, before being wiped out by the arrival of a large population of permanent settlers, speaking either English or French.

#### Michif

Michif (also known as Mîchîf, Mechîf, Michif-Cree, Mèlîf, Mèlchîf and French Cree) is a mixed language which evolved within the Prairie Métis community. It is based on elements of Cree, Ojibwa, Assiniboine and French. Michif is today spoken by less than 1,000 individuals in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota. At its peak, around 1900, Michif was understood by perhaps three times this number.

#### Basque pidgin

In the 16th century, Algonquian-Basque pidgin, a Basque pidgin developed in coastal areas along the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and the Strait of Belle Isle as the result of contact between Basque whalers and local Algonquian peoples.<sup>[46]</sup>

#### Chinook Jargon

In British Columbia, Yukon and throughout the Pacific Northwest a pidgin language known as the Chinook Jargon emerged in the early 19th century which was a combination of Chinookan, Nootka, Chehalis, French and English, with a smattering of words from other languages including Hawaiian and Spanish.<sup>[47]</sup> Certain words and expressions remain current in local use, such as skookum, tyee and salchuck, while a few have become part of worldwide English ("high muckety-muck" or "high muckamuck" for a high-ranking and perhaps self-important official).

### Canadian dialects of European languages

#### Canadian Gaelic

Scottish Gaelic was spoken by many immigrants who settled in The Maritimes and Glengary County, Ontario. Scottish Gaelic was spoken predominantly in New Brunswick's Restigouche River valley, central and southeastern Prince Edward Island, and across the whole of northern Nova Scotia—particularly Cape Breton Island and a few speakers in Ontario, primarily Glengary County.

While the Canadian Gaelic dialect has mostly disappeared, regional pockets persist. These are mostly centred on families deeply committed to their Celtic traditions. Nova Scotia currently has 500-1000 fluent speakers, mostly in northwestern Cape Breton Island.

There have been attempts in Nova Scotia to institute Gaelic immersion on the model of French immersion. As well, formal post-secondary studies in Gaelic language and culture are available through St. Francis Xavier University, Saint Mary's University, and the Gaelic College.

In 1890, a private member's bill in the Canadian Senate, calling for Gaelic to be made Canada's third official language. However, the bill was defeated 42-7.

#### Franglais and Chiac

A portmanteau language which is said to combine English and French syntax, grammar and lexicons to form a unique interlanguage, sometimes ascribed to mandatory basic French education in the Canadian anglophone school systems. While many Canadians are barely conversant in French they will often borrow French words into their sentences. Simple words and phrases like "c'est quoi ça?" (what is that?) or words like "arrête" (stop) can alternate with their English counterparts. This phenomenon is more common in the eastern half of the country where there is a greater density of Francophone populations. Franglais can also refer to the supposed degradation of the French language thanks to the overwhelming impact Canadian English has on the country's Francophone inhabitants, though many linguists would argue that while English vocabulary can be freely borrowed as a stylistic device, the grammar of French has been resistant to influences from English<sup>[48]</sup> and the same conservatism holds true in Canadian English grammar,<sup>[49]</sup> even in Quebec City.

One interesting example of 'Is Chiac, popularly a combination of Acadian French and Canadian English, but actually an unmistakable variety of French, which is native to the Maritimes (particularly New Brunswick which has a large Acadian population).

#### Ottawa Valley Twang

Ottawa Valley Twang is the accent, sometimes referred to as a dialect of English, that is spoken in the Ottawa Valley, in Ontario.<sup>[50]</sup> The Ottawa Valley is considered to be a linguistic enclave within Ontario.<sup>[51]</sup>

#### Newfoundland Irish

Some of the original immigrants to Newfoundland were native speakers of Irish, who passed on a version of their language to their children. As a result, Newfoundland became the only place outside Europe to have its own Irish dialect. Newfoundland was also the only place outside Europe to have its own distinct name in Irish: *Talamh an Éisc*, which means 'land of the fish'. The Irish language is now extinct in Newfoundland.

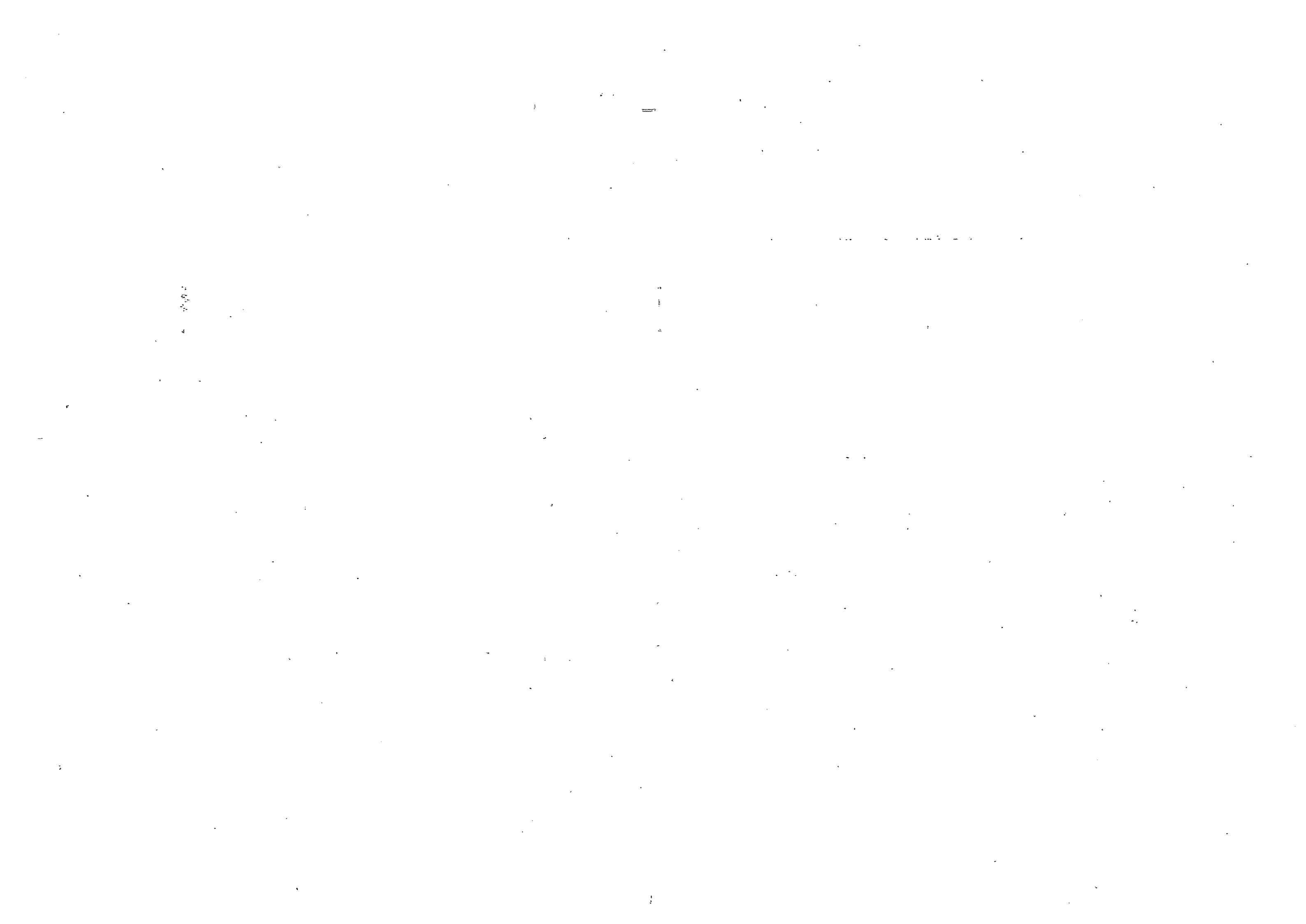
#### Welsh language

Some Welsh is found in Newfoundland. In part, this is as a result of Welsh settlement since the 17th century. Also there was an influx of about 1,000 Patagonian Welsh migrants to Canada from Argentina after the 1982 Falklands War. Welsh-Argentines are fluent in Spanish as well as English and Welsh.

## LANGAGE AND CULTURE OF CANADA

Dott.ssa Sainsbury

The photographs included in this booklet  
are supplemented by colour slides on our  
Moodle page.



**NORTH MAGNETIC POLE**  
 The North Magnetic Pole moves slowly (and unpredictably) in general north-westerly direction. In 1906 it was at 72°N 96°W approx. and as yet for 1965 position. This movement affects magnetic declination from True North. In the north between 1906 and 1965, the angle between true north and "magnetic" north, for example in London is 12°20' or approx would have varied approximately 24' west of true north in 1965, 4' west.

**CANADA**  
 Scale 1:19,000,000 approx.

0 Kilometres 0 100 200 300 400 500

0 Miles 0 100 200 300 400 500

One inch to 300 miles

⊙ Towns over 1 million people  
 ⊙ Towns over 100,000 people

— International boundaries  
 - - - Provincial boundaries

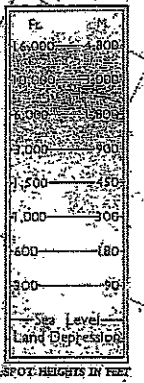
⊞ Railways  
 ⊞ Projected railways

✈ Airports

⊞ Sand desert

⊞ Salt pan

⊞ Roads  
 ⊞ Tracks  
 ⊞ Canal  
 ⊞ Morch  
 ⊞ Ice cap



Zenithal Equidistant Projection

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