

Breton Books

2023 – 24

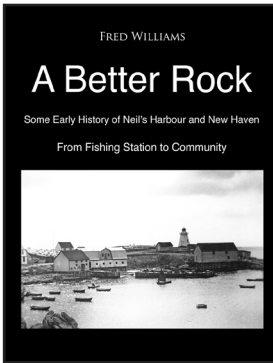
ST. PAUL ISLAND

The Story of Lighthouses,
Shipwrecks and Lives
on “The Graveyard of the Gulf”



Gabrielle Williams

New from Breton Books



A Better Rock Some Early History of Neil's Harbour and New Haven From Fishing Station to Community by FRED WILLIAMS

IN THE SETTING OF NEIL'S HARBOUR AND NEW HAVEN in northern Cape Breton Island, *A BETTER ROCK* tells the story of a people's search for fish and for a future, from England to Newfoundland to Cape Breton. Teaching at Cabot High School and serving as school librarian, Fred Williams helped establish the Cabot Archives—a research centre dedicated to community studies.

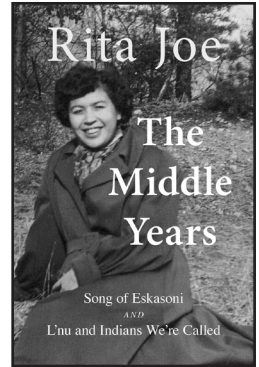
378 pp, 8 x 10 paper • \$39.95 • ISBN 978-1-998919-16-1
eBook • \$39.95 • ISBN 978-1-998919-17-8

Rita Joe—The Middle Years Two Complete Books of Poetry

RITA JOE'S POETRY IS AN ACHIEVEMENT both as literature and as a vital social tool for justice and compassion—evidence of her continuing journey to understand and to share the unique combination of Mi'kmaq spirituality and Christianity that was her daily life.

"Rita Joe offers plain-spoken lyrics that name things for what they are, whether it is anti-Native prejudice or the feel of bark from a tree at her birthplace. Joe is gone; but her art goes on."—George Elliott Clarke

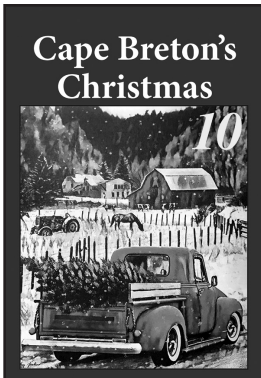
122 pp, 6 x 9, paper • \$21.95 • ISBN 978-1-998919-07-9
eBook • \$16.00 • ISBN 978-1-998919-08-6



Cape Breton's Christmas Book 10 — 54 Writers Collected by RONALD CAPLAN

NOW A GENUINE HOLIDAY TRADITION, this tenth edition of *Cape Breton's Christmas* contains 54 stories, including "My Christmas with a Muslim," "Last Christmas," "Professor Cobbywobble's Most Delicious Christmas," "Cherishing the Christmas Cherries," "The Christmas Tree Dentist," "Take my Turkey . . . Please!"—told with tenderness, rich good humour and compassion by writers that include Sharon Dunn, Taiya Barss, Steve Woods, Winston Ruck, Ronald Labelle, Rosie Grace Aucoin, Donna D'Amour and many, many more.

A treasury of stories and memories for the whole year!
166 pp, 6 x 9, paper • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-998919-04-8

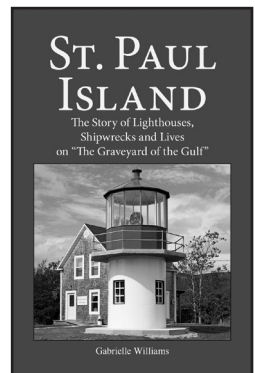


St. Paul Island

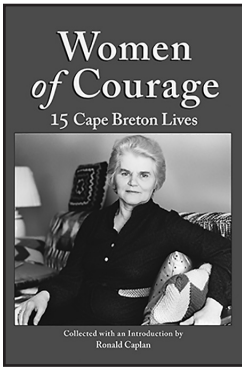
The Story of Lighthouses, Shipwrecks and Lives on "The Graveyard of the Gulf" by GABRIELLE WILLIAMS

TODAY, CANADA'S FIRST HERITAGE LIGHTHOUSE stands at the St. Paul Island Museum in Dingwall, Cape Breton Island. It was once the Southwest Light of this lonesome rock in the Gulf of St. Lawrence—home to a rare breed of lighthouse keepers and radio operators. Gabrielle Williams of the St. Paul Island Historical Society details the day-to-day lives, and the harrowing stories, of men and women who faced the challenges of prolonged isolation, devastating storms, tragic shipwrecks and desperate survivors.

184 pp, 5.5 x 8.5 paper • photographs • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-998919-15-4
eBook • \$16.00 • ISBN 978-1-998919-09-3



Breton Books



Women of Courage 15 Cape Breton Lives In Their Own Words edited by RONALD CAPLAN

HERE ARE 15 WOMEN'S LIVES that leap with energy, humour, pathos, and power. Hard work, high spirits, and abiding love are threads through their unforgettable stories.

"These spoken lives in **Women of Courage** are reminders of the thousands of women who have been the underpinning of Cape Breton Island—women we too rarely remember but who have been responsible for the island we speak of with pride."—Ronald Caplan

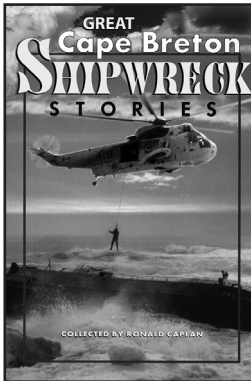
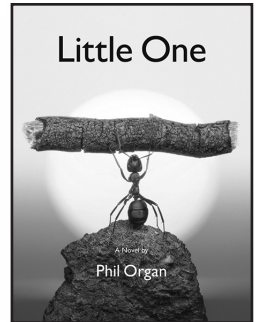
188 pp, 6 x 9 paper, photographs • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-47-2

Little One The Novel by PHIL ORGAN

A MOMENT OF COMPASSION in the anthill means that Little One will live—a life of new ideas that will challenge the colony's traditional world. Little One demonstrates enormous integrity and commitment to her colony, but eventually, with courage and curiosity, she dares to live out her own vision. Beautifully written and difficult to classify, Phil Organ's novel holds up a compelling, disturbing mirror to the way we live.

Little One possesses kernels of terror, and kernels of exquisite light.

144 pp, 5.5 x 7.5, paper • \$16.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-13-7



Great Cape Breton Shipwreck Stories collected by RONALD CAPLAN

TWO NEWFOUNDLAND FERRY DISASTERS expand this new edition. In 1942 the *Caribou* was sunk by a German torpedo, with the loss of 137 lives. In 1970 a vicious storm battered in the stern door of the *Patrick Morris*. Four crew were lost; the others rescued by a German ore carrier.

From the gut-wrenching trek of the survivors of the *Auguste* to John Angus Fraser's hilarious adventures aboard the abandoned *Kismet II*, to Walter Boudreau's harrowing days adrift in a lifeboat—this book is a tribute to the tradition of Cape Breton storytelling.

Filled with courage and humanity, here are 18 stories of people determined to live, told by people determined to keep these stories alive.

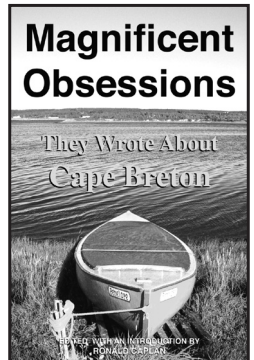
184 pp, 6 x 9, paper, photographs • \$18.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-05-2

Magnificent Obsessions They Wrote About Cape Breton

FOURTEEN PROVOCATIVE CHAPTERS from writers who go a little further out, a little deeper, and bring back treasures of insight and imagination. Each chapter stands on its own, and each one is part of the portrait of Cape Breton Island. Good bedside reading!

Edited by Ronald Caplan, authors in **Magnificent Obsessions** include Sara Gold on the 1925 Coal Strike, David Dow on the meteorite that shaped Cape Breton, Lori Cox on Cape Breton's tea ceremonies, Mary Willa Littler and her search to name the coal miners in "The Strangers' Grave"—and ten more impassioned writers and speakers. With photographs.

176 pp, 6 x 9 paper • \$17.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-96-4



Breton Books

Cape Breton Highlands National Park

A Park Lover's Companion

by CLARENCE BARRETT

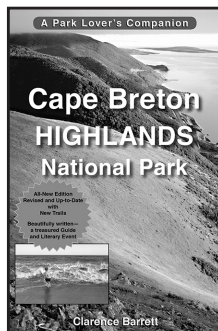
MUCH MORE THAN A GUIDE, this entertaining book brings us northern Cape Breton in all seasons, both on and off trail. A respected naturalist and Park warden, Barrett shares his lifelong love, respect and enthusiasm for the rich natural landscape and lore of the Highlands. He lovingly weaves his adventures into facts about flora and fauna, geology and weather.

Up-to-date with new trails added, this is a good read—on the trail, or at home in your armchair!

35 colour photographs, drawings, maps

184 pp, 5.5x8.5 paper • \$18.95

ISBN 978-1-926908-30-4



Talking Cape Breton Music

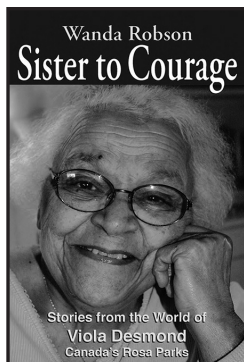
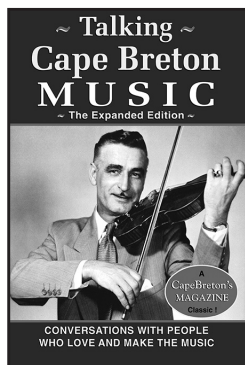
The Expanded Edition

edited by RONALD CAPLAN

RARE, INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS with musicians who love and make the music—such as fiddlers Winston “Scotty” Fitzgerald and Jerry Holland, pianists Marie MacLellan and Doug MacPhee, pipers Alex Currie and Barry Shears, and John Allan Cameron. New chapters include Rita MacNeil, Matt Minglewood, and the Curtis family of singers.

In their own words, **Talking Cape Breton Music** is a lasting companion to music that has won the world—background and enthusiasm from some of Cape Breton’s most beloved musicians.

272 pp, 6 x 9 paper, photographs • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-02-1



Sister to Courage

Stories from the World of Viola Desmond, Canada's Rosa Parks

by WANDA ROBSON

BELOVED STORYTELLER Wanda Robson is a sister of Viola Desmond, the pioneer African-Nova Scotian businesswoman and civil rights icon. In 1946, Viola refused to give up her seat in the whites-only section of a movie theatre—sparking a night in jail, a fine and, over 60 years later, a provincial apology and Royal Pardon. With honesty and wit, Wanda Robson takes us inside the world they shared, tracing the roots of Viola's courage and ambition, and the good fun and dignity of this big, big-hearted family.

Wonderful and bold storytelling, revealing three courageous women: their mother, Gwendolyn Davis, Viola Desmond, and the delightful Wanda Robson.

184 pp, 6x9 paper, photographs • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-34-6

Great Cape Breton Storytelling

In Celebration of Canada 150 — 56 Stories

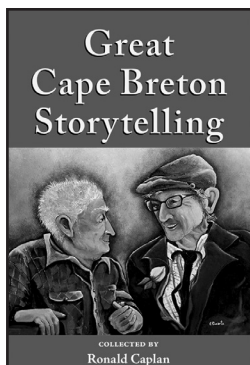
collected by RONALD CAPLAN

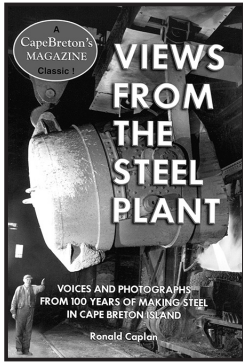
A GENEROUS SERVING OF **CAPE BRETON STORYTELLING**, from “The Drunken Hens” to “The Big Fish,” from “But We Went Out After Mackerel!” and “The Wild Cow” to “How Mike Oleschuk Got his Farm.”

From the Heart of Cape Breton, **Great Cape Breton Storytelling** is part of the “Isle of Story Festival” hosted by the Cape Breton Regional Library, in honour of Canada 150. This is a robust collection of the island's extraordinary storytelling tradition.

184 pp, 6 x 9 paper • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-49-6

eBook • \$16.00 • ISBN 978-1-926908-31-1





Breton Books

Views from the Steel Plant Voices and Photos from 100 Years of Making Steel in Cape Breton Island by RONALD CAPLAN

IN INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS edited from the pages of *Cape Breton's Magazine*, **Views from the Steel Plant** keeps alive the story of Cape Breton's steelmaking adventures. The Boom days of construction, immigrants, women who kept the plant going in World War Two, skilled steelworkers, union organizers—the voices of a powerful community.

90 photos, 224 pp, 6 x 9 paper • \$21.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-69-8

For the Children Poems by RITA JOE

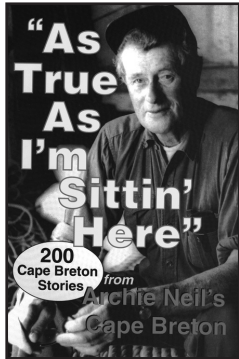
with woodcuts by BURLAND MURPHY

WITH THE YOUNG PERSON IN MIND, these strong, clear and encouraging poems speak directly to all of us, a testament to courage and hope for a better world.

Down-to earth and often humorous, they tell stories of Mi'kmaw life, and of her concrete and spiritual world.

With powerful woodcuts by Burland Murphy.

52 pp, 8 x 8 paper • \$18.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-98-8



As True As I'm Sittin' Here

200 Cape Breton Stories

collected by ARCHIE NEIL CHISHOLM

edited by BRIAN SUTCLIFFE and RONALD CAPLAN

LAUGHS, COMEBACKS, GHOSTS, fairies, put-downs, and all-round wit—from Dan Angus Beaton, Jim St. Clair, Hector Doink MacDonald, and 31 other storytellers. From kitchens and living rooms throughout Cape Breton Island—settings where good stories are born and thrive.

224 pp, 6 x 9 paper • \$17.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-58-2

White Eyes 16 Stories

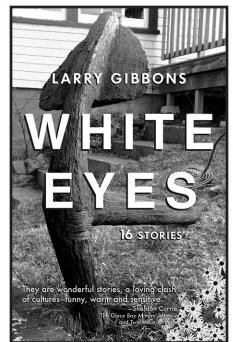
by LARRY GIBBONS

STORIES ROOTED IN 10 YEARS on a Mi'kmaw reserve, and Gibbons' love for a native woman. Stirred by the tenderness, tenacity, and flexibility of the Mi'kmaw extended family, and challenged by a native spirituality so different from his own upbringing, Gibbons' voice—always passionate, often confused, frequently hilarious—builds a bridge between white and native culture, even as he entertains with a sharp, self-deprecating eye.

"Wonderful stories...funny, warm and sensitive."—SHELDON CURRIE

"I know that my own people will enjoy reading them and getting that interesting perspective from a white man who has a helluva time attempting to understand reserve life."—BERNIE FRANCIS

176 pp, 5.5 x 8.5 paper • \$17.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-07-6



Ships and Men

The Golden Age of Wooden Ships in Cape Breton Island

by CAPT. JOHN P. PARKER

FROM TWO CLASSIC BOOKS—*Sails of the Maritimes* and *Cape Breton Ships and Men*—the rich history of wooden shipbuilding, and of men who plied the world's oceans under sail. Includes Parker's story of the schooner *St. Clair Theriault*—his experience as an extraordinarily unsuccessful shipowner.

208 pp, 7.75 x 9.375 paper, photos, drawings • \$21.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-78-0

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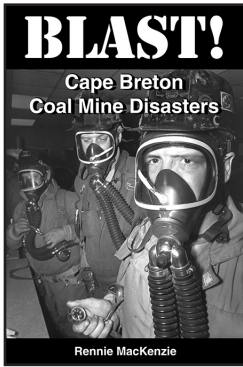
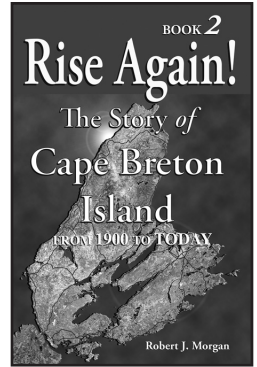
Rise Again!

The Story of Cape Breton Island
Book One and Book Two
by ROBERT MORGAN

THE FIRST FULL-SCALE HISTORY OF CAPE BRETON. **Book One** takes you from geological roots through Mi'kmaq supremacy, the French and English battles, Loyalists and the Colony of Cape Breton, forced marriage to mainland Nova Scotia—and the pioneer Acadian, Irish and Scottish settlers. **Book Two** takes up the story with 1900 industrialization of coal and steel, migration from rural Cape Breton and Europe for the jobs, the island's vital role as soldier and supplier in two world wars, Labour's Wars and difficult economic development, while Mi'kmaq, Acadians, Irish and Scottish struggle for cultural survival. An independent Cape Breton emerges, with music and literature that entertains and inspires the wider world.

Book One: 232 pp, 6 x 9 paper, photos • \$21.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-81-0

Book Two: 288 pp, 6 x 9 paper, photos • \$23.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-85-8



BLAST!

Cape Breton Coal Mine Disasters
by RENNIE MACKENZIE

A MONUMENT TO COURAGE AND ACHIEVEMENT, **BLAST!** tells the story of all 18 major disasters in Cape Breton's coal mining history—from the first boiler explosion in 1877 to the last methane disaster in 1979.

The author of **In the Pit** brings his coal miner's eyes and heart to these staggering stories about the horror and the causes of explosions and runaways, bumps and falls. He concludes with a tribute to mine rescue teams—the draegermen.

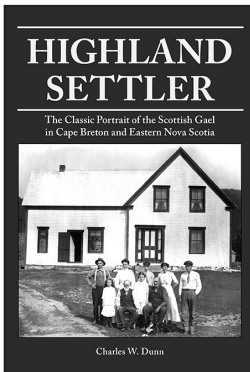
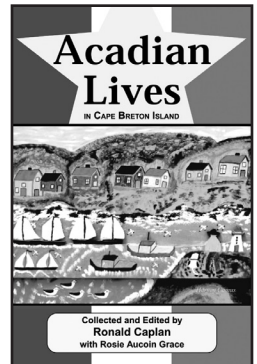
192 pp, 6 x 9 paper, photographs • \$18.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-79-7

Acadian Lives
in Cape Breton Island
collected & edited by RONALD CAPLAN

CAPE BRETON ACADIANS COME ALIVE in visits with extraordinary people in a beautiful land. Here are 22 interviews by Cape Breton's best chronicler, told in their own words—in English, with some French stories and songs.

From fishing life to the cooperative movement, from daily life to sorcery and celebrations—words and photos offer an intimate portrait of this unique world.

224 pp, 6 x 9 paper, photographs • \$21.95 • ISBN 978-1-895415-55-1



Highland Settler

The Classic Portrait of the Scottish Gael
in Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia
by CHARLES W. DUNN

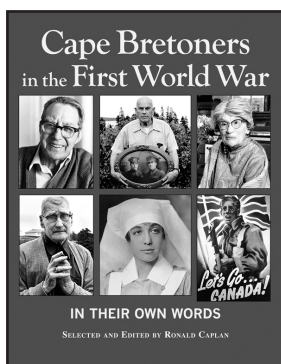
A STORY OF IMMIGRATION, RURAL SETTLEMENT, and the later dispersion to the industrial world—here is the classic, thoughtful, and entertaining history of an extraordinary people.

Dunn's extensive interviews and the informed warmth of his approach make **Highland Settler** an excellent book in the discovery of Cape Breton. Drawing on local songs and poetry that settlers composed, Dunn achieves a Gaelic settlers' self-portrait.

A fresh new edition of a lasting classic!

206 pp, 6 x 9 paper • \$18.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-35-9

Breton Books



Cape Bretoners in the First World War

~ In Their Own Words ~

Selected and Edited by **RONALD CAPLAN**

with 100 New and Historic Photographs

RARE CONVERSATIONS WITH VETERANS are the hearts of these stories, letters and photographs. From enlistment to trench life—in battle, in hospital and in mud—this is an intimate account of soldiers who fought and of nurses who tried to relieve the suffering. More than just Cape Breton, this book speaks for Canada's Great War soldiers—their patriotism and desire for adventure, victories and tragedies—beautifully shared in their remarkable compilation.

136 pp, 8.5 x 11, paper, photos • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-32-8

In the Public Square—A Citizen's Reader

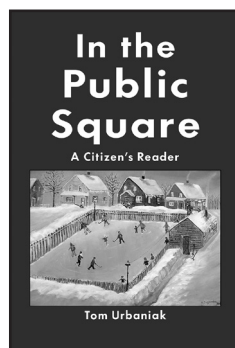
by **TOM URBANIAK**

OUR COMMUNITIES ARE TIRED—EVEN CRANKY. Around us, we have watched a world seemingly wracked by instability and conflict. Democracies are ailing. People are hurting.

How can we help? How can we make things better? How can we find some balance, some healthy dialogue, and understand our problems in a broader context? How can we unleash or inspire generosity and hospitality—and good governance? Tom does this through short, punchy essays, which manage to be both critical and hopeful.

eBook \$16.00 • 978-1-998919-02-4

287 pp, 6 x 9 paper • \$24.95 • ISBN 978-1-998919-01-7



Dieppe

Canada's Forgotten Heroes

by **JOHN MELLOR**

GRIPPING IN INTENSITY, excruciating in detail, this account of the 1942 Allied raid on the heavily-fortified German-held coastal town of Dieppe, France, is written with humanity and eloquence.

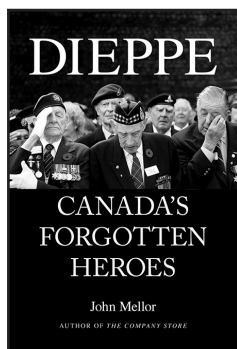
Mellor puts the reader in the landing craft and on the beaches with Canadians exposed to the carnage of German firepower from the cliffs above. In nine hours, 807 Canadians die. Then 1,946 survivors march to German prisoner-of-war camps, to face years of appalling captivity.

John Mellor keeps this essential Canadian epic alive.

"Vivid...Poignant...Devastating...Throbs with Agony...Astonishing Bravery...Riveting!"—Toronto Star

eBook • \$16.00 • ISBN 978-1-926908-46-5

222 pp, 6 x 9 paper, photographs • \$21.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-42-7



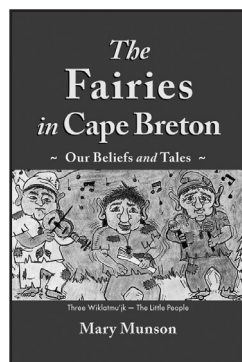
The Fairies in Cape Breton

Our Beliefs and Tales

by **MARY MUNSON**

FROM THE MARVELOUS WIKLATMU'J of the Mi'kmaq to the lutins of the Acadians and Scottish fairies, elves and little people—they all come together as Mary Munson shares the living traditions from rare corners of Cape Breton Island. Laced through with tales from the oral tradition, *The Fairies in Cape Breton* is a rich, respectful and satisfying presentation of remarkable elements from this ever-surprising island.

174 pages, 6 x 9 paper • \$19.95 • ISBN 978-1-926908-85-4



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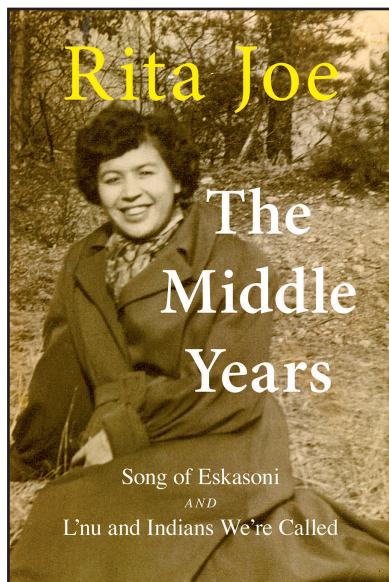
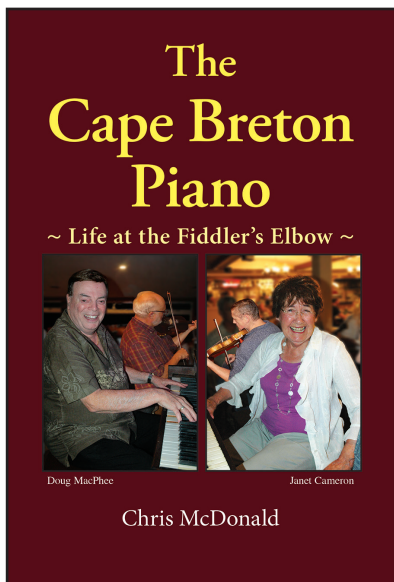
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