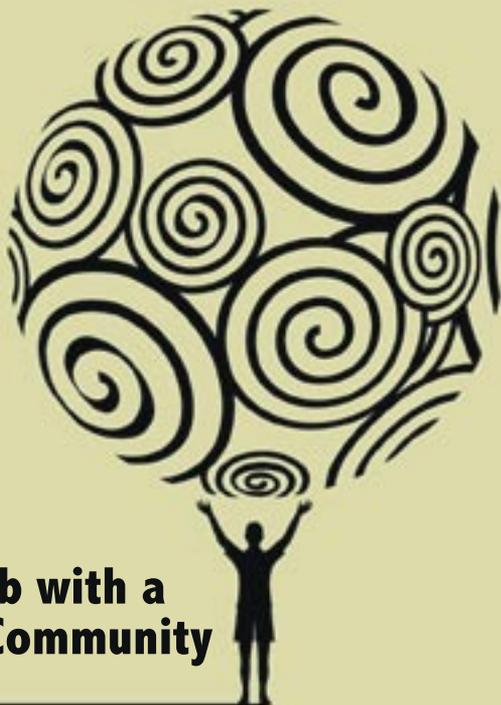


Books BEYOND Borders



**Starting a Book Club with a
Global Focus in your Community**

ACIC  CACI

Atlantic Council for International Cooperation
Conseil Atlantique pour la Coopération Internat



Photo by: Tanya Canam

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) is a rich and vibrant coalition of individuals, organizations and institutions in the Atlantic region, who are committed to achieving global sustainability in a peaceful and healthy environment, with social justice, human dignity, and participation for all. ACIC supports its members in international cooperation and education through collective leadership, networking, information, training and coordination, and represents their interests when dealing with government and others.

ACIC also takes a leadership role in engaging Atlantic Canadians around issues relating to international development, global sustainability and social justice. Through our public engagement work, ACIC strives to give Atlantic Canadians the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to become active global citizens.

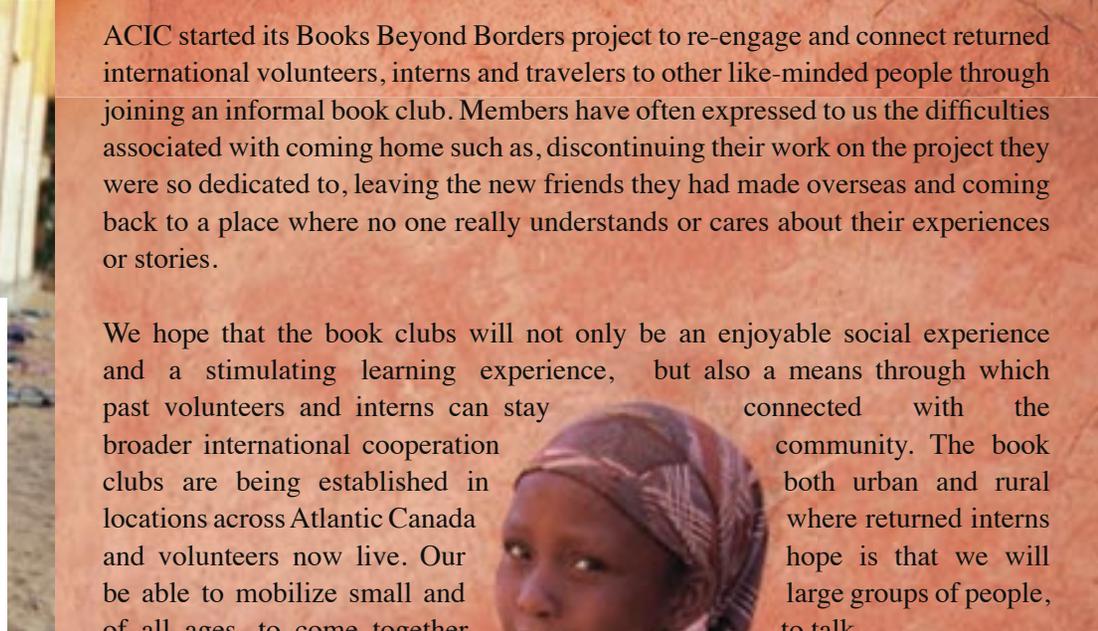


Photo by:
Neal Livingston

ACIC started its Books Beyond Borders project to re-engage and connect returned international volunteers, interns and travelers to other like-minded people through joining an informal book club. Members have often expressed to us the difficulties associated with coming home such as, discontinuing their work on the project they were so dedicated to, leaving the new friends they had made overseas and coming back to a place where no one really understands or cares about their experiences or stories.

We hope that the book clubs will not only be an enjoyable social experience and a stimulating learning experience, but also a means through which past volunteers and interns can stay connected with the broader international cooperation community. The book clubs are being established in both urban and rural locations across Atlantic Canada and where returned interns and volunteers now live. Our hope is that we will be able to mobilize small and large groups of people, of all ages, to come together to talk.

This resource kit has been developed to help you set up and run a book club. We give you tips on starting a book club, suggestions of books to read, guiding discussion questions and contact information for organizations and institutions that are involved in international cooperation work in your area.

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If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us at info@acic-caci.org or visit us on www.acic-caci.org.



Photo by: Nina Goudie

Words form the basis of communication. They help us express ourselves and understand each other. Words allow us to see the world through others' eyes. They shape our understanding of the culture we live in, and those we don't. Books are our passport to places both real and imagined. Through the power of the written word, we can hope to educate and

expand people's curiosity and concern for issues relating to international cooperation. In a world that is becoming increasingly interdependent, books play an especially important role in breaking stereotypes, fostering understanding and encouraging interest and learning. Books are a portal through which we can explore the world.

1. Finding People

Book clubs generally need between 5 and 15 people to be successful. Often they start with a core group of 3 or 4 friends. Ask around to find others to join; they could be friends of friends, workmates, friends of workmates, etc. You can put little ads up at the library, cafes, grocery stores – wherever you think you might find interesting people with a common love of international experiences.

2. Setting Goals

It is important that everyone discusses early on what they hope to get out of the book club. Talk about the kind of style and tone you want for the book club. Some questions to ask yourselves are:

1. Do you want in-depth discussions on each book or just an enjoyable chat?
2. Do you want to focus on a particular theme of book?
3. How will you choose your books?
4. Do you want the books to be literary, light or somewhere in between?
5. Do you want the book club to be a means of sharing and minimizing the cost of books? Or are you happy for everybody to buy or get their own copy somehow?

3. Deciding on the Type of Book Club

There are two general types of book clubs:

A. One book at a time

This is the most common method. The book club chooses one book, everyone reads it and then discusses. This is great for readers that want to have a great discussion of each book. Guiding questions can be used to help facilitate the discussion.

B. A shared pool of books

Members contribute to a diverse pool of books. Everyone takes turns selecting a book to take home and read. The focus is on sharing books and more casual discussion.



4. Logistics

1. When?

Generally book clubs meet every 4 to 6 weeks. Try to choose a regular night and time that remains consistent and suits everybody. Two hours is usually a good amount of time to be social and have a book discussion.

2. Where?

Often members take turns hosting the book club at their houses. Decide in advance the level of food and refreshments that are expected. Other meeting options could include the library, cafes or restaurants.

5. Selecting the books

A. One Book at a Time:

Some groups decide on all their books for the year at an initial meeting. Everyone puts in a couple of suggestions, a vote is taken, and a list is drawn up. This way, people can plan in advance how they are going to get hold of a copy of the books. Another common method is for the person hosting the book club to choose the book. They need to let people know what book they have chosen a month or two in advance.

B. Shared Pool:

When you are setting up the book club, everyone should bring a couple of books to put into the pool initially. After that, the host for that particular month will typically add a couple of new books to the pool. Other members can add books of their own whenever they like. Try and set up a system of recording who takes what book home and who the original owner is.

Photo by: Heather Connolly

6. Discussing the books

Often the discussion just flows naturally from your enjoyment of the book and the fact that everyone has such diverse backgrounds and experiences. If you need extra help though, consider the following:

- **Chose a conversation leader:** This could be the host for the month, or another rotating member. Be sure to encourage the quieter members to voice their opinions and allow everyone equal talk time.
- **Discussion questions/Reading guides:** If you do a search on the Internet, you can often find discussion questions about each particular book. Remember that these are only meant as conversation starters.
- **General Questions:** Here are some general questions for both fiction and non-fiction that should help get you started:

Questions for Fiction:

- What was unique about the setting of the book and how did it enhance or take away from the story?
- What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What do you think he/she is trying to get across to the reader?
- Do the characters seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?
- How do the characters change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger such changes?
- In what ways do the events in the books reveal evidence of the author's world view?
- Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way? Did this lead to a new understanding or awareness of some aspect of your life you might not have thought about before?



Photo by: Tanya Canam

Questions for Non-fiction:

- What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this book?
- How has reading this book changed your opinion of a certain person or topic?
- Does the author present information in a way that is interesting and insightful, and if so, how does he or she achieve this?
- If the author is writing on a debatable issue, does he or she give proper consideration to all sides the debate? Does he or she seem to have a bias?
- How has the book increased your interest in the subject matter?

7. Possible Challenges

Things like punctuality, overly opinionated members, or differing expectations may come up from time to time. It is really important to talk about any problems that are arising early before they become monsters.

Out of Poverty and into Something More Comfortable – John Stackhouse

Vintage Canada, 2001, ISBN: 0679310983

From the Publisher: In an intriguing blend of travel writing and analysis, moving portraits and comic tales, Stackhouse tells the personal stories of some of the world's poorest people and shows how they are going to end global poverty in the next century. He provides haunting details of lives and communities destroyed by misplaced aid and government interventions. But more importantly he shows how individuals are finding the creativity and means to make their own lives better. Time and again, Stackhouse sees what happens when people have a say in the fate of their schools, forests, fields and governments: they do what no development agency or government mega-project has been able to achieve. They thrive. They may continue to be humble but they are no longer desperate.

The Poisonwood Bible –

Barbara Kingsolver

Perennial Canada, 2005, ISBN: 0060786507

From the Publisher: The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it – from garden seeds to Scripture – is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.



Photo by: Ruth Innis

A Fine Balance – Rohinton Mistry
McClelland & Stewart, 2002, ISBN: 0771034806

From the Publisher: Set against the emergency measures imposed by Indira Gandhi in the mid-1970s, *A Fine Balance* follows the lives of four unlikely people as they struggle “to maintain a fine balance between hope and despair.” Originally published in 1995, *A Fine Balance* is both a warning about the human terrors that await a society without compassion and a testimony to the enduring greatness of the human spirit.

The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
Doubleday Canada, 2004, ISBN: 0385660073

From the Publisher: Amir and Hassan are childhood friends in the alleys and orchards of Kabul in the sunny days before the invasion of the Soviet army and Afghanistan’s descent into fanaticism. Both motherless, they grow up as close as brothers, but their fates, they know, are to be different. Amir’s father is a wealthy merchant; Hassan’s father is his manservant. Amir belongs to the ruling caste of Pashtuns, Hassan to the despised Hazaras. This fragile idyll is broken by the mounting ethnic, religious, and political tensions that begin to tear Afghanistan apart. Compelling, heartrending, and etched with details of a history never before told in fiction, *The Kite Runner* is a story of the ways in which we’re damned by our moral failures, and of the extravagant cost of redemption.

Get Involved

Centre for International Nursing, Memorial University

Poverty and health are interrelated. Poor people are less healthy and have shorter life expectancies. As a result, they cannot be as productive or able to capture economic opportunities to earn an income. Improving health will therefore reduce poverty and vice versa.

www.mun.ca/cin

CUSO

CUSO places skilled Canadians with Southern partners in 22 countries in the South. CUSO volunteers work for up to two years in countries in the Americas-Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and Africa in human right promotion, natural resource management, environmental education and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. CUSO also supports education programs around gender equity themes overseas through development and monitoring of gender policy in governance models.

www.cuso.org

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC)

NSAC leads several capacity development initiatives with universities and colleges in developing countries. Projects are related to food security, sustainable agriculture, teaching, gender equality, entrepreneurship and rural private sector development.

www.nsac.ca/international

Get Involved

Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG)

NSPIRG puts out a number of free or subsidized original publications every year which highlight critical issues of social justice, accessibility, and control in the province. Our most recent releases include a dossier on homelessness and poverty in Nova Scotia called ‘Poverty in Perspective’; a comprehensive resource known as the ‘Single Mother’s Survival Guide’; and ‘Hoping Against Hope’, an audio-documentary examining the ongoing effects of colonialism on First Nation communities in Canada.

www.nspirg.org

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe

Anchor, 1994, ISBN: 0385474547

From the Publisher: With over eight million copies in print, Chinua Achebe’s work is perhaps the best-known novel in African literature. No other book so powerfully illuminates the African experience. Driven by ambition, Okonkwo works tirelessly to gain prosperity and prestige in his village. But he is harsh as well as diligent. As he sees the traditions of his people eroded by white missionaries and government officials, he lashes out in anger. *Things Fall Apart* traces the growing friction between village leaders and Europeans determined to save the heathen souls of Africa. Its hero, a noble man who is driven by destructive forces, speaks a universal language.

Photo by: Janine Mitchell



Recommended Reading *Human Rights*

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier – Ishmael Beah

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007, ISBN: 0374105235

From the Publisher: It is estimated that in the more than fifty violent conflicts going on worldwide, there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now in his mid-twenties, tells how, at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels in his homeland of Sierra Leone and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

The Book of Negroes – Lawrence Hill

HaperCollins, 2007, ISBN: 1554681561

From the Publisher: Abducted as an 11-year-old child from her village in West Africa and forced to walk for months to the sea in a coffle—a string of slaves—Aminata Diallo is sent to live as a slave in South Carolina. But years later, she forges her way to freedom, serving the British in the Revolutionary War and registering her name in the historic “Book of Negroes.” This book, an actual document, provides a short but immensely revealing record of freed Loyalist slaves who requested permission to leave the US for resettlement in Nova Scotia, only to find that the haven they sought was steeped in an oppression all of its own.

Aminata's eventual return to Sierra Leone—passing ships carrying thousands of slaves bound for America—is an engrossing account of an obscure but important chapter in history that saw 1,200 former slaves embark on a harrowing back-to-Africa odyssey.

28 Stories of HIV in Africa – Stephanie Nolan

Knopf Canada, 2008, ISBN: 0676978231

From the Publisher: In *28*, Stephanie Nolan, the Globe and Mail's Africa Bureau Chief, puts a human face to the crisis created by HIV-AIDS in Africa. She has achieved, in this amazing book, something extraordinary: she writes with a power, understanding and simplicity that makes us listen, makes us understand and care. Through riveting anecdotal stories – one for each of the million people living with HIV-AIDS in Africa – Nolan explores the effects of an epidemic that well exceeds the Black Plague in magnitude. It is a calamity that is unfolding just a 747-flight away, and one that will take the lives of these 28 million without the help of massive, immediate intervention on an unprecedented scale. *28* is a timely, transformative, thoroughly accessible book that shows us definitively why we continue to ignore the growth of HIV-AIDS in Africa only at our peril and at an intolerable moral cost.

Recommended Reading *Human Rights*



Photo by: Nina Goudie

Race Against Time – Stephen Lewis

Anansi, 2005, ISBN: 0887847331

From the Publisher: In 2000, the United Nations laid out a series of eight goals meant to guide humankind in the new century. Called the Millennium Development Goals, these targets are to be met by 2015 and are to lay the foundation for a prosperous future. In *Race Against Time*, Stephen Lewis advances real solutions to help societies across the globe achieve the Millennium Goals. Through lucid, pragmatic explanations, he shows how dreams such as universal primary education, a successful war against the AIDS pandemic, and environmental sustainability, are within the grasp of humanity. For anyone interested in forging a better world in the third millennium, *Race Against Time* is powerful testimony.

Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor – Dr. Paul Farmer

University of California Press, 2004, ISBN: 0520243269

From the Publisher: *Pathologies of Power* uses harrowing stories of life—and death—in extreme situations to interrogate our understanding of human rights. Paul Farmer, a physician and anthropologist with twenty years of experience working in Haiti, Peru, and Russia, argues that promoting the social and economic rights of the world's poor is the most important human rights struggle of our times. With passionate eyewitness accounts from the prisons of Russia and the beleaguered villages of Haiti and Chiapas, this book links the lived experiences of individual victims to a broader analysis of structural violence. Farmer challenges conventional thinking within human rights circles and exposes the relationships between political and economic injustice, on one hand, and the suffering and illness of the powerless, on the other.

Recommended Reading *Human Rights*

My Traitor's Heart: A South Africa Exile Returns to Face his Country, his Tribe, his Conscience – Rian Malan

Grove/Atlantic, 2000, ISBN: 0802136842

From the Publisher: Malan, former South African crime reporter, searches for the truth behind apartheid, and finds it not in the way blacks and whites live, but in the way they die at one another's hands.

Get Involved

The Canadian Red Cross

The goal of the Canadian Red Cross is to teach the armed forces, lawmakers, politicians and the general public that "Even Wars Have Limits". The more we know about International Humanitarian Law (i.e. the laws of war), and the more we understand its impact on human life and dignity, the more likely we are to respect it.

www.redcross.ca

Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG)

NSPIRG believes in the need to focus on human rights issues in our own backyard. In this vein, we strive to work closely with affected communities through democratic consensus-based decision-making through an anti-oppression framework. This also comes out in our campaigns which address labour rights, women's rights, refugee/migrant rights and environmental rights in the province; all of which are fundamental to human rights.

www.nspirg.org

Rescue Mission Canada

Rescue Mission Canada is led by passionate Canadian youth committed to action and education on environmental and world issues, who seek to empower their peers to take action on issues that concern them, and to support international cooperation through interaction and travel.

www.rescuemissioncanada.org

Recommended Reading *Gender*



Photo by: Pat Kipping

The Swallows of Kabul – Yasmina Khadra

Knopf Publishing Group, 2005, ISBN: 1400033764

From the Publisher: Set in Kabul under the rule of the Taliban, this extraordinary novel takes readers into the lives of two couples: Mohsen, who comes from a family of wealthy shopkeepers whom the Taliban has destroyed; Zunaira, his wife, exceedingly beautiful, who was once a brilliant teacher and is now no longer allowed to leave her home without an escort or covering her face. Intersecting their world is Atiq, a prison keeper, a man who has sincerely adopted the Taliban ideology and struggles to keep his faith, and his wife, Musarrat, who once rescued Atiq and is now dying of sickness and despair.

Desperate, exhausted Mohsen wanders through Kabul when he is surrounded by a crowd about to stone an adulterous woman. Numb by the hysterical atmosphere and drawn into their rage, he too throws stones at the face of the condemned woman buried up to her waist. With this gesture the lives of all four protagonists move toward their destinies.

Purple Hibiscus – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Knopf Publishing Company, 2004, ISBN: 1400076943

From the Publisher: Fifteen-year-old Kambili's world is circumscribed by the high walls and frangipani trees of her family compound. Her wealthy Catholic father, under whose shadow Kambili lives, while generous and politically active in the community, is repressive and fanatically religious at home.

When Nigeria begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili's father sends her and her brother away to stay with their aunt, a university professor, whose house is noisy and full of laughter. There, Kambili and her brother discover a life and love beyond the confines of their father's authority. The visit will lift the silence from their world and, in time, give rise to devotion and defiance that reveal themselves in profound and unexpected ways.

***Half a Yellow Sun* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**
Knopf Canada, 2007, ISBN: 0676978134

From the Publisher: With her award-winning debut novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was heralded by the Washington Post Book World as the “21st century daughter” of Chinua Achebe. Now, in her masterly, haunting new novel, she recreates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra’s impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in Nigeria during the 1960s.

With the effortless grace of a natural storyteller, Adichie weaves together the lives of five characters caught up in the extraordinary tumult of the decade. Fifteen-year-old Ugwu is house-boy to Odenigbo, a university professor who sends him to school, and in whose living room Ugwu hears voices full of revolutionary zeal. Odenigbo’s beautiful mistress, Olanna, a sociology teacher, is running away from her parents’ world of wealth and excess; Kainene, her urbane twin, is taking over their father’s business; and Kainene’s English lover, Richard, forms a bridge between their two worlds. As we follow these intertwined lives through a military coup, the Biafran secession and the subsequent war, Adichie brilliantly evokes the promise, and intimately, the devastating disappointments that marked this time and place.

Get Involved

CUSO

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www.nspirg.org

Oxfam Canada

Oxfam works to protect women’s rights and strengthen women’s equality in Canada and around the world. Oxfam works to end discrimination in the workplace, support women’s empowerment through improved livelihoods, stronger community organisations and better enforcement of the law and to ensure that federal budgets take into account the needs and interests of women.

www.oxfam.ca

***The Birth House* – Ami MacKay**
Knopf Canada, 2007, ISBN: 0676977731

From the Publisher: *The Birth House* is the story of Dora Rare, the first daughter to be born in five generations of Rares. As a child in an isolated village in Nova Scotia, she is drawn to Miss Babineau, an outspoken Acadian midwife with a gift for healing. Dora becomes Miss B.’s apprentice, and together they help the women of Scots Bay through infertility, difficult labours, breech births, unwanted pregnancies and even unfulfilling sex lives. Filled with details as compelling as they are surprising, *The Birth House* is an unforgettable tale of the struggles women have faced to have control of their own bodies and to keep the best parts of tradition alive in the world of modern medicine.

***The God of Small Things* – Arundhati Roy**

Vintage Canada, 1998, ISBN: 0679309411

From the Publisher: *The God of Small Things* heralds a voice so powerful and original that it burns itself into the reader’s memory. Set mainly in Kerala, India, in 1969, it is the story of Rahel and her twin brother Estha, who learn that their whole world can change in a single day, that love and life can be lost in a moment. Armed only with the invincible innocence of children, they seek to craft a childhood for themselves amid the wreckage that constitutes their family. Sweet and heartbreaking, ribald and profound, this is a novel to set beside those of Salman Rushdie and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

***Brick Lane* – Monica Ali**

Simon & Schuster, 2004, ISBN: 0743243315

From the Publisher: After an arranged marriage to Chanu, a man twenty years older, Nazneen is taken to London, leaving her home and heart in the Bangladeshi village where she was born. Her new world is full of mysteries. How can she cross the road without being hit by a car (an operation akin to dodging raindrops in the monsoon)? What is the secret of her bullying neighbour Mrs. Islam? What is a Hell’s Angel? And how must she comfort the naïve and disillusioned Chanu?

As a good Muslim girl, Nazneen struggles to not question why things happen. She submits, as she must, to Fate and devotes herself to her husband and daughters. Yet to her amazement, she begins an affair with a handsome young radical, and her erotic awakening throws her old certainties into chaos.

***A Short History of Progress* – Robert Wright**

House of Anansi Press, 2004, ISBN: 0887847064

From the Publisher: Each time history repeats itself, so it's said, the price goes up. The twentieth century was a time of runaway growth in human numbers, consumption, and technology, placing a colossal load on all natural systems, especially earth, air, and water – the very elements of life. The great question of the twenty-first century is how, or whether, this can go on.

In *A Short History of Progress* Ronald Wright shows how our modern predicament is as old as civilization, a 10,000-year experiment we unleashed but have seldom controlled. Only by understanding the patterns of progress and disaster that humanity has repeated around the world since the Stone Age can we recognize the experiment's inherent dangers, and, with luck and wisdom, shape its outcome.

***Silent Spring* – Rachel Carsen**

Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007, ISBN: 0618249060

From the Publisher: First published by Houghton Mifflin in 1962, *Silent Spring* alerted a large audience to the environmental and human dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides, spurring revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. *Silent Spring* became a runaway bestseller, with international reverberations...[It is] well crafted, fearless and succinct...Even if she had not inspired a generation of activists, Carson would prevail as one of the greatest nature writers in American letters (Peter Matthiessen, for *Time's* 100 Most Influential People of the Century). This fortieth anniversary edition celebrates Rachel Carson's watershed book with a new introduction by the author and activist Terry Tempest Williams and a new afterward by the acclaimed Rachel Carson biographer



Photo by: Heather Connolly

Linda Lear, who tells the story of Carson's courageous defence of her truths in the face of ruthless assault from the chemical industry in the year following the publication of *Silent Spring* and before her untimely death in 1964.

***Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* – William McDonough & Michael Braungart**

Douglas & McIntyre, 2001, ISBN: 0865475873

From the Publisher: A manifesto for a radically different philosophy and practice of manufacture and environmentalism. "Reduce, reuse, recycle" urge environmentalists; in other words, do more with less in order to minimize damage. As William McDonough and Michael Braungart argue in their provocative, visionary book, however, this approach perpetuates a one-way, "cradle to grave" manufacturing model that dates to the Industrial Revolution and casts off as much as 90 percent of the materials it uses as waste, much of it toxic. Why not challenge the notion that human industry must inevitably damage the natural world, they ask.

In fact, why not take nature itself as our model? A tree produces thousands of blossoms in order to create another tree, yet we do not consider its abundance wasteful but safe, beautiful, and highly effective; hence, "waste equals food" is the first principle the book sets forth. Products might be designed so that, after their useful life, they provide nourishment for something new—either as "biological nutrients" that safely re-enter the environment or as "technical nutrients" that circulate within closed-loop industrial cycles, without being "downcycled" into low-grade uses (as most "recyclables" now are).

***The 100 Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating* – Alisa Dawn Smith**

Random House Canada, 2007, ISBN: 0679314830

From the Publisher: The remarkable, amusing and inspiring adventures of a Canadian couple who make a year-long attempt to eat foods grown and produced within a 100-mile radius of their apartment.

When Alisa Smith and James MacKinnon learned that the average ingredient in a North American meal travels 1,500 miles from farm to plate, they decided to launch a simple experiment to reconnect with the people and places that produced what they ate. For one year, they would only consume food that came from within a 100-mile radius of their Vancouver apartment. The 100-Mile Diet was born.

Environment - Get Involved

Clean Nova Scotia

Clean Nova Scotia is a non-profit environmental education organization that creates and offers award-winning, effective programs in the areas of climate change, energy, waste, water, air quality, classroom resources, and health and community development. Clean Nova Scotia seeks to create a cleaner, healthier environment by informing, enabling, and inspiring Nova Scotians to respect and consider the environment in all their choices.

www.clean.ns.ca

Earth Action

Earth Action is a not-for-profit environmental activist group whose work on issues around agriculture, oceans, forests, toxics and land use and is guided by a deep ecology philosophy.

www.isn.net/~network/earthact.html

The Ecology Action Centre

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) has acted as a voice for Nova Scotia's environment for over 35 years. Since 1971, the EAC has been working to build a healthier, more sustainable Nova Scotia. Today we have over 1500 members, 250 volunteers and staff, and seven active teams and committees. The Ecology Action Centre works closely with social and natural scientists and makes strong use of science in communicating its message to the public. Our current areas of focus include Built Environment, Marine issues, Coastal Issues, Wilderness, Food, Transportation and Energy Issues

www.ecologyaction.ca

The Marine Institute

The mandate of the Marine Institute is to provide education and training, applied research and technology transfer in support of our client industries on a national and international basis. The Marine Institute's mission is to foster economic development in strategic sectors of the Newfoundland economy, particularly the fisheries and offshore, and to enable Newfoundlanders to participate in the Marine Industry nationally and internationally. Currently the Marine Institute has programs in Cambodia, Malawi, Mozambique, Maldives and Vietnam.

www.mi.mun.ca/mi_international

The Prince Edward Island Environmental Network

The Prince Edward Island Environmental Network is an incorporated, non-profit cooperative whose mandate is public education and outreach. We do not advocate but rather present both sides of an issue and allow people to choose their own individual course of action.

www.isn.net/~network/



Photo by: Irené Novaczek

Environment - Get Involved

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network (NSEN)

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network (NSEN) was established in 1991 and is a non-profit organization registered under the Society Act of Nova Scotia. The network is comprised of non-governmental environmental and health organizations whose common purpose is the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the pursuit of a sustainable future for Nova Scotia. There are approximately 40 environmental organizations in the Network. NSEN facilitates the forming of caucuses and working groups among our members. NSEN also organizes events, capacity-building workshops, annual conferences and roundtables to support the work of our members.

www.nsen.ca

Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG)

NSPIRG campaigns for environmental justice, seeking to support marginalized or oppressed communities targeted disproportionately by polluting and hazardous industries. One such initiative is the Save Lincolnville Campaign working to support the efforts of an Indigenous-Black community in Northeast Nova Scotia against a series of municipal landfills.

www.nspirg.org

Recommended Reading *Travel Diaries*

***Video Night in Kathmandu* – Pico Iyer**

Vintage, 1989, ISBN: 0679722165

From the Publisher: Mohawk hair-cuts in Bali, yuppies in Hong Kong and Rambo rip-offs in the movie houses of Bombay are just a few of the jarring images that Iyer brings back from the Far East.

***The Sun Also Rises* – Ernest Hemmingway**

Scribner, 1996, ISBN: 0684830515

From the Publisher: Published in 1926 to explosive acclaim, *The Sun Also Rises* stands as perhaps the most impressive first novel ever written by an American writer. A roman à clef about a group of American and English expatriates on an excursion from Paris's Left Bank to Pamplona for the July fiesta and its climactic bull fight, a journey from the center of a civilization spiritually bankrupted by the First World War to a vital, God-haunted world in which faith and honour have yet to lose their currency, the novel captured for the generation that would come to be called "Lost" the spirit of its age, and marked Ernest Hemingway as the pre-eminent writer of his time.

***The Innocents Abroad* – Mark Twain**

Dover Publications, 2003, ISBN: 048642832X

From the Publisher: *The Innocents Abroad* sold over 70,000 copies in its first year and remained the best-selling of Twain's works throughout his lifetime. This classic records Twain's keen wit and amusing observations during his trip through Europe and the Holy Land in 1867.

***No Mercy: A Journey to the Heart of the Congo* – Redmon O'Hanlon**

Alfred A. Knopf, 1997, ISBN: 0679406557

From the Publisher: Redmond O'Hanlon has journeyed among head-hunters in deepest Borneo with the poet James Fenton, and amid the most reticent, imperilled and violent tribe in the Amazon Basin with a night-club manager. This, however, is his boldest journey yet. Accompanied by Lary Shaffer—an American friend and animal behaviourist, a man of imperfect health and brave decency—he enters the unmapped swamp-forests of the People's Republic of the Congo, in search of a dinosaur rumoured to have survived in a remote prehistoric lake.

An elegant, disturbing and deeply compassionate evocation of a vanishing world, extraordinary in its depth, scope and range of characters, *No Mercy* is destined to become a landmark work of travel, adventure and natural history. A quest for the meaning of magic and the purpose of religion, and a celebration of the com-

Recommended Reading *Travel Diaries*

forts and mysteries of science, it is also—and above all—a powerful guide to the humanity that prevails even in the very heart of darkness.

Get Involved

The Atlantic Council for International Cooperation web site lists a variety of opportunities to volunteer abroad. Visit: www.acic-caci.org/opp_vol.html for more information and links to volunteer sending organisations.

Checklist

Politics and Poverty

- Out of Poverty and into Something More Comfortable* – John Stackhouse
- The Poisonwood Bible* – Barbara Kingsolver
- A Fine Balance* – Rohinton Mistry
- The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini
- Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe

Human Rights

- A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* – Ishmael Beah
- The Book of Negroes* – Lawrence Hill
- 28 Stories of HIV in Africa* – Stephanie Nolan
- Race Against Time* – Stephen Lewis
- Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor* – Dr. Paul Farmer
- My Traitor's Heart: A South Africa Exile Returns to Face his Country, his Tribe, his Conscience* – Rian Malan

Gender

- The Swallows of Kabul* – Yasmina Khadra
- Purple Hibiscus* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- Half a Yellow Sun* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- The Birth House* – Ami MacKay
- The God of Small Things* – Arundhati Roy
- Brick Lane* – Monica Ali

Environment

- A Short History of Progress* – Robert Wright
- Silent Spring* – Rachel Carson
- Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* – William McDonough & Michael Braungart
- The 100 Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating* – Alisa Dawn Smith

Travel Diaries

- Video Night in Kathmandu* – Pico Iyer
- The Sun Also Rises* – Ernest Hemmingway
- The Innocents Abroad* – Mark Twain
- No Mercy: A Journey to the Heart of the Congo* – Redmon O'Hanlon



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