

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY – GEORGE BOWERING**

*Please note that the following bibliography covers the time period leading up to and including the poet's term as Parliamentary Poet Laureate. The bibliography does not include works published after the Poet Laureate's term has ended.*

### **BOOK LENGTH POEMS**

Baseball: A poem in the magic number 9

Toronto, [Coach House Books](#), 2003

God is the Commissioner of Baseball.  
Apollo is the president of the Heavenly League.  
The Nine Muses, his sisters  
the first all-girls baseball team.  
Archangel Michael the head umpire.  
Satan was thrown out of the game  
for arguing with the officials.

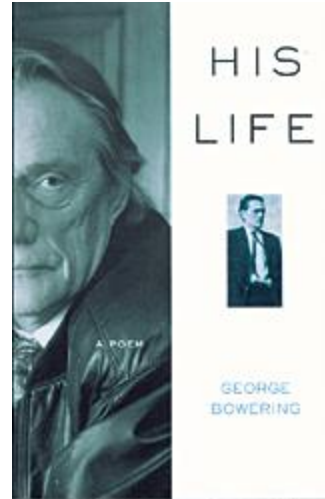


From its remarkable design to its effervescent language, George Bowering's ode to the beautiful game is as original as it is funny, as bittersweet as it is playful. A long-out-of-print Coach House classic, originally published in 1967, *Baseball* weaves together mythology, autobiography, literary history and pop culture into an inimitable book-length poem that explores all the nuances of the sport. Here are all the greats: Mantle, DiMaggio, Maris, Williams and Manuel Louie, shortstop for the Wenatchee Chiefs, their exploits captured in passages of off-kilter, occasionally melancholy, lyricism. Gar Smith's enchanting and ingenious design has also been preserved; the book, complete with green velvet-flocked covers, is shaped like a pennant that, when unfolded, forms a diamond.

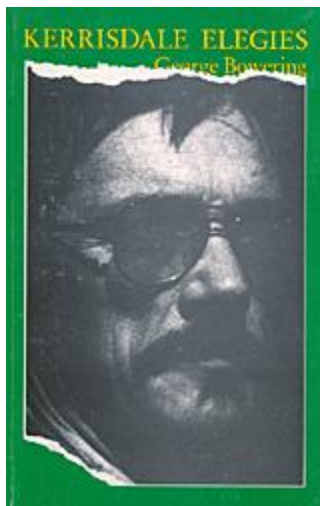
A long-time utility player, Bowering (our Homer?) has written books in many different genres and was recently named Canada's first Poet Laureate. *Baseball* is a tantalizing glimpse of the writer at the beginning of his illustrious career; a real curveball of a book that will dazzle literature and sports fans alike.

Poetry -- 24 pages -- April 2003 -- ISBN 1-55245-123-2 -- \$14.95

Sitting in Mexico, Calgary, Beaver Kosmos, 1965.  
George, Vancouver, Kitchener, Weed/Flower, 1970.  
Geneve, Toronto, Coach House, 1971.  
Autobiology, Vancouver, New Star, 1972.  
Curious, Toronto, Coach House, 1973.  
At War With the U.S., Vancouver, Talon, 1974.  
Allophanes, Toronto, Coach House, 1976.  
Ear Reach, Vancouver, Alcuin, 1982,



His Life: a poem  
Toronto, ECW Press, 2000.



Kerrisdale Elegies,  
Toronto, Coach House, 1984.

Elegie di Kerrisdale, Rome, Edizioni Empiria.  
Transl. Annalisa Goldoni. 1996.

**Kerrisdale Elegies** is a series of meditations on the strangeness of coming into the world, the loveliness of the world, and the sadness of leaving it. Set among the tree-lined streets of one of Vancouver's most gracious residential areas, it is Bowering's song of resolute middle age.

"The autobiographical and the cosmic meet in these elegies. Bowering, the poet as world-maker, here becomes the poet as world-retriever. He reaches out from solitude to memory. He speaks to the presence of Rilke. We read in pain and awe and gratitude." -  
Robert Kroetsch

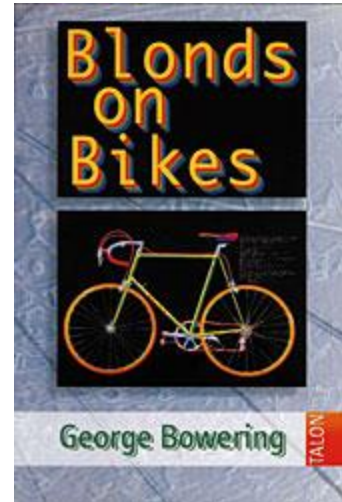
## COLLECTION OF POEMS

(including gathered long poems)

### Blonds on Bikes

Vancouver, [Talonbooks](#), 1997.

Blonds on Bikes is George Bowering's first book of poetry since Urban Snow was published by Talonbooks in 1992. Whatever the form, Bowering is more interested in sound than he is in ground, more interested in wit than he is in shovels. If you read carefully, you might get a little scared.



Sticks & Stones, Vancouver, Tishbooks, 1963.

Points on the Grid, Toronto, Contact Press, 1964.

The Man in Yellow Boots/ El hombre de las botas amarillas, Mexico, Ediciones El Corno, 1965.

The Silver Wire, Kingston, Quarry Press, 1966.

Rocky Mountain Foot, Toronto, M&S, 1969.

The Gangs of Kosmos, Toronto, House of Anansi, 1969.

Touch: selected poems 1960-1969, Toronto, M&S, 1971.

In the Flesh, Toronto, M&S, 1974.

The Catch, Toronto, M&S, 1976.

Poem & Other Baseballs, Windsor, Black Moss, 1976.

The Concrete Island, Montreal, Vehicule Press, 1977.

Another Mouth, Toronto, M&S, 1979.

Particular Accidents: selected poems, Vancouver, Talon, 1981.

West Window: selected poetry, Toronto, General, 1982.

Smoking Mirror, Edmonton, Longspoon, 1982.

Seventy-One Poems for People, Red Deer, RDC Press, 1985.

Delayed Mercy & other poems, Toronto, Coach House, 1986.

Sticks & Stones, Vancouver, Talonbooks, 1989.

Urban Snow, Vancouver, Talonbooks, 1992.

George Bowering Selected: Poems 1961-1992, Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1993.

Poèmes et autres baseballs, Montreal. Tryptique, 1999 (collaboration).

## NOVELS

### Shoot!

Toronto, [Key Porter](#), 1994.

New York, St. Martin's, 1966.

Across Canada's wild west of the 1800s, brothers Allan, Charlie, Archie and sidekick Alex Hare were known as the McLean gang. They were also known as "breeds" - outcasts caught between the cultures - Alex Hare, a Metis, and Allan, Charlie and Archie, brothers of mixed Salish and Scottish blood. They roamed the high Chilcotin ranch country of British Columbia in the 1870s, cattle rustling, stealing and creating high-spirited mayhem.

Until one frozen, crystalline morning in 1879, when they crossed the line and shot two men in cold blood, one of them, Johnny Ussher, the local sheriff. Tracked down by a posse of over 100 men, the McLean Gang were eventually trapped and besieged.

ISBN 1-55013-606-2 -- \$18.95 Soft Cover

Mirror on the Floor, Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1967.

A Short Sad Book, Vancouver, Talonbooks, 1977.

Burning Water, Toronto, New York, General, 1980, 1983. Penguin, 1994.

En eaux troubles, Montreal, Quinze, 1982. Transl. L.-Philippe HÉbert.

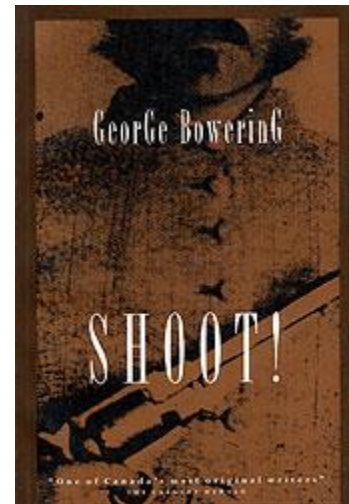
Caprice, Toronto, New York, Viking/Penguin, 1987, 1988. 2nd Ed. 1994.

Harry's Fragments, Toronto, Coach House Press, 1990.

Parents From Space, Montreal, Roussan, 1994. 2nd ed. 1996. Toronto, Scholastic, 1996 (YA).

Piccolo Mondo, Toronto, Coach House Books, 1998 (collaboration).

Diamondback Dog, Montreal, Roussan, 1998.



## STORIES



### Standing on Richards

Viking Canada, 2004.

This collection of new and selected stories demonstrates Bowering's famous humour, wit and gift for storytelling.

Set in Vancouver, New York City and San Francisco, this collection of fifteen stories is filled with oddball characters. Bowering's mini-narratives explore the awe and mystery of human relationships. In the title story, "Standing on Richards," a disillusioned English professor ensconces himself on a corner of Richards Street in downtown Vancouver.

There, amongst women selling their bodies, he tries to look intellectually seductive in the hopes of selling his mind.

In "Old Bottles," a woman recounts how her neighbour cut down his lilac hedge only to replace it with a fence made of empty wine bottles. She thinks the man is crazy, but nonetheless finds his bottle fence strangely appealing. In another story, entitled simply "A Short Story," Bowering openly challenges the conventions of realist storytelling and plays with readers' expectations. Throughout the story we are encouraged to question the method of storytelling: "By the way," the reader is asked, "have you noticed that when the narrator speaks in the first person, he makes you the second person?"

These are stories that extend the limits of fiction. Intelligent, funny, and enigmatic, they will resonate in your mind long after the experience of reading them.

### The Rain Barrel

Vancouver, [Talonbooks](#), 1994.

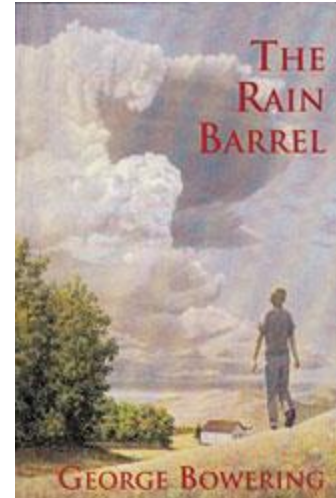
The Rain Barrel— Ten years in the making, these stories display Bowering's meticulous attention to the details of his craft.

Flycatcher & other stories, Ottawa, Oberon, 1974.

Concentric Circles, Windsor, Black Moss, 1977.

Protective Footwear, Toronto, M&S, 1978.

A Place to Die, Ottawa, Oberon, 1983.



### **CRITICISMS**

Al Purdy, Toronto, Copp Clark, 1970.

Three Vancouver Writers,

Toronto, Open Letter/Coach House, 1979.

A Way With Words, Ottawa, Oberon, 1982.

The Mask in Place, Winnipeg, Turnstone Press, 1983.

Craft Slices, Ottawa, Oberon, 1985.

Errata, Red Deer, RDC Press, 1988.

Imaginary Hand, Edmonton, NeWest Press, 1988.

### **CHAPBOOKS**

How I Hear Howl, Montreal, Beaver Kosmos, 1967.

Two Police Poems, Vancouver, Talon, 1969.

The Sensible, Toronto, Massasauga, 1972.

Layers 1-13, Kitchener, Weed/Flower, 1973.

In Answer, Vancouver, William Hoffer, 1977.

Uncle Louis, Toronto, Coach House, 1980.

Spencer & Groulx, Vancouver, William Hoffer, 1985.

Quarters, Prince George, Gorse Press, 1991. (Winner, bp Nichol chapbook award 1991)

Do Sink, Vancouver, Pomflit, 1992.

Sweetly, Vancouver, Wuz, 1992.

Blondes on Bikes, Ottawa, Above Ground, 1997.

A, You're Adorable, Ottawa, Above Ground, 1998.

6 Little Poems in Alphabetical Order, Calgary, House Press, 2000.

Some Writers, Calgary, House Press, 2001.

Joining the Lost Generation, Calgary, House Press, 2002.

## MEMOIRS

### Cars,

Toronto, Coach House Books, 2002.

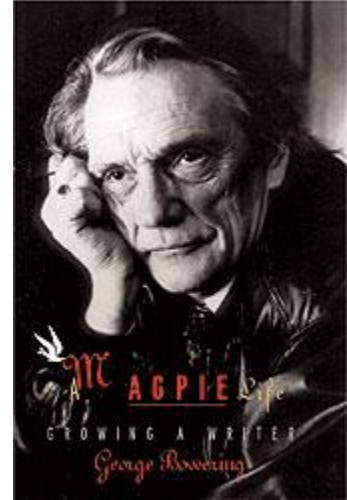
### A Magpie Life

Toronto, [Key Porter](#), 2001.

**A Magpie Life** is a memoir of a literary life. It is vintage Bowering - funny, self-deprecating and perceptive - and as wide-ranging as his interests. And in true Bowering style, it delights in surprising the reader with profound understanding carefully cloaked by wry humour. Dispensing with the details of his life in the opening "Alphabiography," a witty and moving account in which the important aspects of his life are detailed alphabetically, Bowering settles down to write the story of the literary influences on his life and writing. The reader is treated to a wonderful portrait of the renegade young hipsters who founded the landmark literary magazine Tish in Vancouver in the early 60s; to insights into the structure and style of the poets who influenced his own writing; and to what it was like to carve a writing life from the western edge of the Canadian literary renaissance. **A Magpie Life** will forever ruin Bowering's carefully-crafted image as the western rube. It's funny and smart and one of the best literary memoirs you'll read. (2001)

1-55263-348-9 - \$21.95 Soft Cover

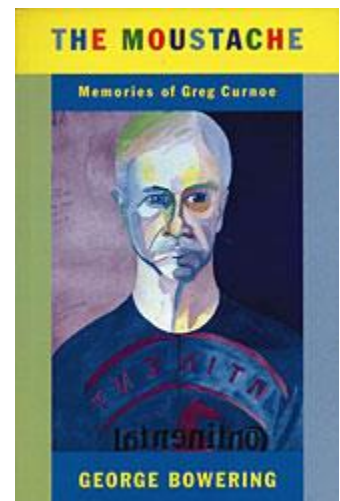
**Reviews:** "One of Canada's most original writers." - The Calgary Herald



### The Moustache: Memories of Greg Curnoe

Toronto, [Talonbooks](#), 1993.

**The Moustache** -- George Bowering and Greg Curnoe became friends in London, Ontario in 1966. Bowering was a 30-year-old poet and university student and Curnoe was a 29-year-old painter who had dropped out of art school in Toronto to return to his place of birth. Their art was in its youth, their eyes and ears were wide open and their stomachs could withstand pots and pots of strong, black coffee. For 26 years they grew up parallel, inside each other's work. Greg Curnoe was killed on his bicycle late in 1992, struck down in the middle of his bright career.



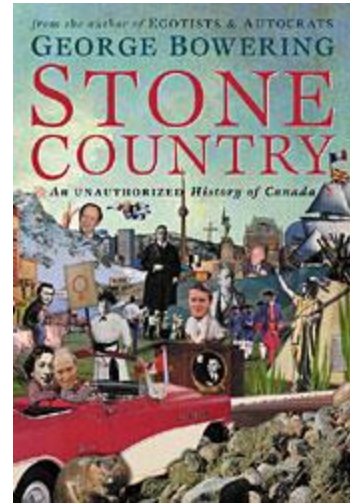
## HISTORY

### Stone Country,

Penguin Canada, 2003.

In the delightful spirit of Bowering's *B.C. & Egotists & Autocrats*, the inimitable George Bowering now tackles nothing less the history of our entire country (including the women).

Beginning with our beginnings, George Bowering offers theories about the genesis of life in Canada. He debunks the Land Bridge theory and brings to life dinosaurs and woolly mammoths, Kennewick Man and Clovis people. He describes an early vision of corn and whales - and stone and rock.



In a chapter entitled "There Goes the Neighbourhood", he describes the coming of the Europeans as the Norsemen give way to the familiar explorers who came seeking silk, spices, pearls and ivory and found instead cod, beavers and pyrite.

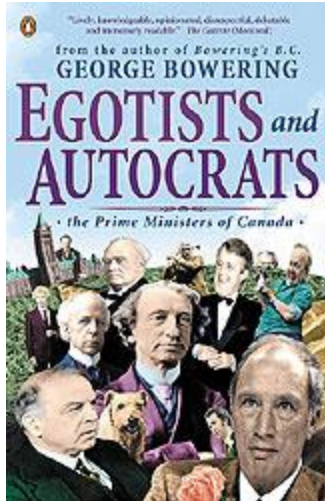
He shows how New France intertwined agricultural, religious and economic systems that became the backbone of our country for centuries and argues that from the fur wars to Lundy's Lane to the FLQ to native blockades our history has not been quite as peaceful and we may pretend.

Bowering lays out all of our history from the beginnings right to the late 90's with his characteristic references to sports and literature. He enlivens his narrative with poetry and box scores and imaginative chapter titles like "Mackenzie Kink" and "Get Riel" and "Nuclear and Unclear". He dramatizes an imagined meeting of Alexander Mackenzie and George Vancouver to delight us.

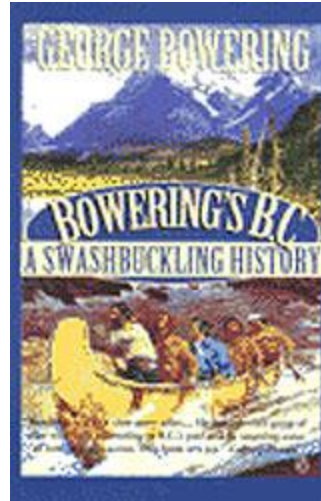
But we must not be fooled by George's humour and imagination: in this book you will find tough criticism of our neighbours to the south and of those who have felt they "owned" this country and those who have tried to govern it.

And when in 1934 George himself is born in Penticton we have the benefit of seeing our country through the eyes of man who lived in Montreal in the 60's, founded an influential poetry movement and has always been deeply engaged in his country's accomplishments and follies.





Egotists and Autocrats  
Toronto, Viking, 1999.  
Toronto, Penguin, 2000.



Bowering's B.C.  
Toronto, Viking, 1996.  
Penguin, 1997.

## PLAYS

- The Home for Heroes, Vancouver, Prism, 1962.  
What Does Eddie Williams Want?, Montreal, CBC-TV, 1966.  
George Vancouver, Vancouver, CBC radio network, 1972.  
Sitting in Mexico, Vancouver, CBC radio network, 1973.  
Music in the Park, Vancouver, CBC radio network, 1986.  
The Great Grandchildren of Bill Bissett's Mice, Vancouver, CBC radio network, 1989.

## EDITIONS

- The 1962 Poems of R.S. Lane, Toronto, Garglia Press, 1965.  
Vibrations: poems of youth, Toronto, Gage, 1970.  
The Story so Far, Toronto, Coach House, 1972.  
Imago Twenty, Vancouver, Talon, 1974.  
Cityflowers, by Artie Gold, Montreal, Delta Canada, 1974.  
Letters from Geeksville: letters from Red Lane 1960-64, Prince George, Caledonia Writing Series, 1976.  
Great Canadian Sports Stories, Ottawa, Oberon, 1979.  
Fiction of Contemporary Canada, Toronto, Coach House, 1980.  
Loki is Buried at Smoky Creek: selected poems of Fred Wah, Vancouver, Talon, 1981.  
My Body was Eaten by Dogs: selected poems of David McFadden, Toronto, M&S, New York, CrossCountry, 1981.

"1945-1980," in Introduction to Poetry: British, American, Canadian, David and Lecker, Toronto, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1981.  
The Contemporary Canadian Poem Anthology, Toronto, Coach House, 1983.  
Sheila Watson and The Double Hook: the artist and her critics, Ottawa, Golden Dog Press, 1984.  
Taking the Field: the best of baseball fiction, Red Deer, RDC Press, 1990.  
Likely Stories: a postmodern sampler, Toronto, Coach House Press, 1992. With Linda Hutcheon.  
An H in the Heart: Selected works of bpNichol, Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1994. With Michael Ondaatje.  
And Other Stories, Vancouver, Talonbooks, 2001.

## **EDITOR**

Tish, Vancouver, 1961-63.  
Imago, Calgary, London, Montreal, Vancouver, 1964-1974.  
Beaver Kosmos Folios, Calgary, London, Montreal, Vancouver, 1966-75.

## **ABOUT**

A Record of Writing: an annotated and Illustrated Bibliography of George Bowering, by Roy Miki, Vancouver, Talonbooks, 1989, 401 pp.  
Essays on Canadian Writing, George Bowering issue, ed. Ken Norris, 1989, 127 pp.  
George Bowering: Bright Circles of Colour, by Eva-Marie Kr–ller, Vancouver, Talonbooks, 1992, 128 pp.  
George Bowering and His Works, by John Harris, Toronto, ECW Press, 1992, 62 pp.