BOOKS RUN IN MY FAMILY BY ANN DOUGLAS

INTRODUCTION

FAMILY TREE IMAGE SEEMS TO WORK WELL FOR A BOOK LOVER.

BOOKS ARE MADE OF PAPER AND BOOKS COME FROM TREES.

INTRODUCE YOU TO A FEW OF THE PARTICULARLY BOOKISH MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY, REPRESENTING FOUR GENERATIONS OF READERS AND WRITERS

TALK ABOUT THE MANY WAYS MY FAMILY HELPED TO SET ME ON MY PATH AS A WRITER

WHAT I'VE TRIED TO DO TO PASS THAT SAME LOVE OF READING ON TO MY KIDS

TAKE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE TO BE A WRITER (THE GOOD DAYS, THE BAD DAYS, AND THE NOT-ENOUGH COFFEE DAYS).

FREDERICK ARTHUR AMBROSE TALBOT (B. 1880)

MOST FAMOUS AUTHOR IN OUR FAMILY; BOOKS CONTINUE TO BE SUCH SOUGHT AFTER BY COLLECTORS, WHO OFTEN PAY HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS TO ACQUIRE THEM.

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER; DIED BEFORE I WAS BORN.

BRITISH; VERY PROLIFIC AUTHOR AND MAGAZINE

WRITER.

THE MOST FAMOUS AUTHOR IN OUR FAMILY APPROXIMATELY 20 BOOKS ABOUT CINEMA, PHOTOGRAPHY, AVIATION, TRAINS, TRAVEL (CANADIAN), WASTE MANAGEMENT HIRED BY THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC RAILWAY (LATER PART OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY) TO TRAVEL ACROSS CANADA AND REPORT ON THE POTENTIAL OF THE AREAS BEING OPENED UP FOR SETTLEMENT.

CROSSED THE YELLOWHEAD PASS IN 1910, ONE YEAR BEFORE THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC RAILWAY WAS CONSTRUCTED.

TWO BOOKS RESULTED FROM THIS TRIP:

NEW GARDEN OF CANADA: BY PACK-HORSE AND CANOE THROUGH UNDEVELOPED NEW BRITISH COLUMBIA (1911) AND THE MAKING OF A GREAT CANADIAN RAILWAY (1912).

IN 1923, MOUNT TALBOT WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR WHILE THE B.C.-ALTA BORDER WAS BEING SURVEYED.

LEFT WIFE AND FOUR KIDS AT HOME IN ENGLAND TO TRAVEL TO RESEARCH HIS BOOKS. NOT AS GLAMOROUS AS IT SOUNDED. HE WROTE ABOUT THE OPENING UP OF VARIOUS PARTS OF CANADA THAT DID NOT YET HAVE ROADS. HIS BOOKS DOCUMENT ROAD-BUILDING, TRAIN-MAKING, AND THE OTHER HARD LABOR THAT GOES INTO CREATING THE MOST RUSTIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A BRAND NEW COUNTRY.

LOVED A GOOD STORY. ALONG WITH TELLING HOW THINGS WERE DONE (CORD-SPLITTING, PACKING MULES FOR TRAILS) HE INCLUDED STORIES OF SCOUNDRELS, WAGE REVOLTS, HOW THE COOK IS THE BOSS AT ANY WORK CAMP, AND GREAT IDEAS THAT DON'T QUITE PAN OUT (COOKS RAFTING FROM CAMP TO EDMONTON - LOSING THREE YEARS WORTH OF WAGES PLUS THEIR SPARE CLOTHES (PG. 97)

ROBERTS, A GAME WARDEN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WHO PATROLLED 350 MILES OF WATERWAY -- THE UPPER FRASER RIVER -- IN A BLUE 14 FOOT PETERBOROUGH DUGOUT CANOE - (PG. 120) FRONTIER JOURNALISM (PG. 143)

MAKING GOOD IN CANADA

HTTP://WWW.ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/MAKINGGOODINCANA00TA LBUOFT

GREAT GARDEN OF CANADA

HTTP://WWW.ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/NEWGARDENOFCANAD028 445MBP

GRANDMA (MABEL MARIE) BOLTON (1900-1995)

GREAT ROLE MODEL RE: LOVE OF READING BOOKS AND MAGAZINES THROUGHOUT HER HOUSE, LINING THE TOPS OF HER CUPBOARDS.

ENCOURAGED READING

GIVING MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE WORLD MAGAZINE, WRITER'S DIGEST.

SENDING ME LETTERS AND BOOK REVIEWS AT UNIVERSITY;

CLIPPING SERVICE AFTER I WAS MARRIED.

NEWSPAPER AS COMMUNITY INSTITUTION: LINK TO COMMUNITY

TORONTO STAR:

DONATING TO CHRISTMAS FUND, SUMMER CAMP FUND IDEA OF NEWSPAPER AS HEART OF COMMUNITY. ATKINSON FOUNDATION NEW MODELS: COMMUNITY-OWNED NEWSPAPERS (COOPERATIVES LIKE CREDIT UNIONS); PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS TO COMMUNITY

READING AS SOMETHING ESSENTIAL

READING TO ME WHEN I HAD EYE PATCH SO THAT I'D STILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY BOOKS (20/200 VISION IN NON-PATCHED EYE).

THE GIFT OF BOOKS, IN HER LIFETIME AND BEYOND GIVING PEOPLE BOOKS

IF ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE CONTENT SHE WOULD READ THEM IN ADVANCE. MORE LIBERAL THAN MANY SCHOOL BOARDS. THE DIVINERS SPICY, BUT STILL OKAY TO PASS ALONG. AHEAD OF HER TIME: PRE-READING IS NOW A HOT GIFT-GIVING TIP.

PASSING ALONG SOME OF HER OWN CHILDHOOD FAVORITES: BOOKS OF POEMS BY PAULINE JOHNSTON AND NOVELS BY INDIANA-BASED AUTHOR GENE STRATTON PORTER'S THE GIRL OF THE LIMBERLOST AND FRECKLES, BOOKS MY GRANDMA HAD LOVED DURING HER OWN GROWING UP YEARS. GIRL BOOKS WITH VIVID

DESCRIPTIONS OF NATURE.

GORGEOUS OLD BOOKS, COVERED WITH SUEDE COVERS.

GENE STRATTON PORTER WAS PROLIFIC: WROTE OVER 20 BOOKS

ONE OF THE FIRST FEMALE AUTHORS TO TAKE A STAND (ON CONVERSATION ISSUES, ON WOMEN/CHILDREN'S ISSUES, AGAINST RACISM) ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO FORM HER OWN MOVIE STUDIOS AND PRODUCTION COMPANIES DIED IN 1924, AT THE AGE OF 71, WHEN HER LIMOUSINE WAS HIT BY A STREETCAR IN LOS ANGELES.

HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/GENE_STRATTON_PORTER GAVE ME A COPY OF ANNE OF GREEN GABLES. FIRST SERIES BOOK I CAN REMEMBER READING. FASCINATED TO DISCOVER THE STORY BEHIND THAT SERIES AND THE STRUGGLES L.M. MONTGOMERY EXPERIENCED AS AN AUTHOR AND A MOTHER.

"MONTGOMERY INITIALLY RESISTED PRESSURE FROM HER PUBLISHER TO PRODUCE A SEQUEL TO THE IMMENSELY POPULAR BOOK BUT ULTIMATELY RELENTED."

EXPERIENCED A STILLBIRTH AND THEN THE BIRTH OF A SUBSEQUENT BABY, CONTRACTUAL DIFFICULTIES WITH HER PUBLISHER, PROBLEMS WITH DEPRESSION, MASSIVE FAMILY STRESSES.

"THERE IS SOMETHING IN ME THAT WILL NOT REMAIN INACTIVE UNDER INJUSTICE AND TRICKERY....BESIDES, THE PAGE CO. NEED A LESSON. THEY HAVE TRADED FOR YEARS ON THE AVERAGE WOMAN'S FEAR OF LITIGATION AND THE FACT THAT VERY FEW AUTHORS CAN AFFORD TO GO TO LAW WITH THEM...THEY HAVE DONE THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS THINGS TO POOR AUTHORS WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO SEEK REDRESS." (L.M. MONTGOMERY - 9 APRIL 1920)

WRITING A LIFE: L.M. MONTGOMERY BY MARY RUBIO AND ELIZABETH WATERSTON:

HTTP://WWW.LMMRC.CA/BIOGRAPHY.HTML

PASSING ALONG 13 CARTONS OF BOOKS INCLUDING WELL-WORN VICTORIAN SEX MANUAL THAT HAD BEEN IN OUR FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

MORE WORN THAN THE FAMILY BIBLE. THAT SPARKED ONE OF MY OTHER BOOK-RELATED HOBBIES/OBSESSIONS, COLLECTING ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE BOOKS.

DAD (RODERICK A. BOLTON) (1929-)

TELLING FABULOUS BEDTIME STORIES. CRAZY STORIES. HIS GENRE WAS AN ORAL PRECURSOR TO INTERNET FAN FICTION. HE WOULD MAKE UP STORIES ABOUT REAL PEOPLE WE KNEW AT THE COTTAGE, STORIES THAT WERE COMPLETELY LACKING IN ANY SORT OF MEANING. (I COULDN'T

PARAPHRASE A PLOT IF I TRIED.)
CREATING A TEXT-RICH HOME. APPARENTLY, THE
CONTENT DOESN'T INFILTRATE THE CHILD'S
BRAIN. FOR MOST OF MY CHILDHOOD, WOKE UP
TO FIND COPIES OF ENGINEERING DIGEST,
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE, THE
GLOBE AND MAIL ON KITCHEN TABLE. (REFUSED
TO SUBSCRIBE TO THAT LIBERAL PAPER THE
TORONTO STAR BECAUSE IT HAD TOO MANY ADS.
IF YOU CHECK MY BIO YOU'LL SEE THAT I WRITE
FOR THAT FABULOUS, SOCIAL-JUSTICE ORIENTED
PAPER THE TORONTO STAR.)

AUTHOR: CURLING BOOK (AND OUR CO-AUTHOR EXPERIENCE);

REFLECTIONS: THE STORY OF GO HOME LAKE (WORKED WITH A DIFFERENT CO-AUTHOR AND PRODUCED A GORGEOUS COFFEE TABLE BOOK). LETTER WRITER: MAGAZINES, POLITICAL PARTIES, WHEREVER THERE IS WRONG BEING DONE. SOMETIMES DAD AND I CAN'T COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY ABOUT POLITICS -- OUR VIEWS AREN'T EXACTLY COMPATIBLE -- BUT HIS TELL IT LIKE IT IS LETTERS TO HIS PARTY WHEN THEY ARE WASTING HIS PARTY DONATIONS MAKE FOR GREAT READING, REGARDLESS OF YOUR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

AND HE'S NOT AFRAID TO COME TO MY VARIOUS BLOGS TO OFFER A COUNTER OPINION IF HE

THINKS I'M BEING TOO PROGRESSIVE. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE HAVING YOUR OWN DAD DEBATE YOU ON YOUR OWN BLOG!
COMING OUT TO BOOK LAUNCHES AND BOOK SIGNINGS (DAD - BABY BOOK LAUNCH AT ELLA CENTRE) HE'S COME A LONG WAY, BABY, FROM HIS FEAR OF THE WORD PREGNANCY.

MOM (BARBARA FLORENCE BOLTON) (1940-2003)

READING REDBOOK MAGAZINES ON THE DOCK AT COTTAGE; CATHERINE MARSHALL NOVELS LIKE CHRISTY, CATHERINE MARSHALL'S MASSIVE, THICK BOOK - NOVEL, CHRISTY (1967), WHICH WAS INSPIRED BY THE STORY OF MARSHALL'S OWN MOTHER'S JOURNEY TO THE MOUNTAINS TO TEACH THE IMPOVERISHED CHILDREN OF APPALACHIA. WROTE OVER 20 BOOKS. ME ON HAMMOCK FREEZING AT GO HOME LAKE IN MUSKOKA ONE MAY 24TH WEEKEND, WRAPPED IN A BLANKET AND MY DAD'S COAT. MOM'S HABIT OF LEAVING NOTES ON THE TABLE WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP -- NOTES THAT BECAME A KEY METHOD OF COMMUNICATION WHEN HORMONES (MINE AND HERS) AND HER STRUGGLE WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER INTERFERED WITH COMMUNICATION FLOW.

MOM COLLECTED HER GRANDFATHER'S BOOKS.

GOT THE MESSAGE THAT BEING AN AUTHOR WAS A PROUD AND HONORABLE PROFESSION. BALANCED OFF BY THE SOUTH SERVICE ROAD DRIVE DAD TOOK ME ON.

BEING PROUD TO THE POINT OF BEING UNBEARABLE, APPARENTLY. (MOM: NEWS CLIPPING - SHORTLY BEFORE HER DEATH IN 2003.)

HUSBAND (NEIL)

PERIODICAL SECTION: BROKEN MAGAZINE PULL-DOWN RACK. CLARKSON-LORNE PARK BRANCH.

NEXT THING YOU KNOW WE WERE TAKING WALKS IN THE WOODS BEHIND THE LIBRARY THE LIBRARY. 8 YEARS LATER WE WERE HONEYMOONING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND TOURING THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE TOGETHER. VISITING THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL AND OTHER HISTORICAL MONUMENTS. (I'D GRADUATED W/DEGREE IN HISTORY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES BY THIS TIME, SPECIALIZING IN MODERN CANADIAN AND AMERICAN HISTORY.)

THEN BABIES, BOOKS, AND BABY BOOKS STARTED TO COME ALONG.

SUPPORT: BOOK TOUR OUT WEST, DAY-TO-DAY SUPPORT ON THE HOME FRONT, MUTUAL LOVE OF BOOKS AND EVERYTHING READING RELATED.

KIDS

STORIES WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER

I LOVE YOU GOODNIGHT BY JON BULLER (ILLUSTRATOR) AND SUSAN SCHADE (AUTHOR)

TAKING THEM TO LIBRARY, PFRC/PFEC

HAVING A MOM AS A WRITER

HAVING PARENTS WHO LOVE TO READ

IAN, BABY IN BOOK; THROWING UP IN BOOTH AT BOOK INDUSTRY SHOW; MY SALESMAN

BOOK WITH JULIE: BODY TALK

KEPT HUMBLE, TOO: JULIE'S COMMENT/HILARIOUS

THEMES IN BOOKS I LOVED WHEN I WAS GROWING UP HAVE A LOT IN COMMON WITH WHO I AM AND WHAT I WRITE ABOUT TODAY.

BOOKS WITH STRONG SOCIAL JUSTICE THEMES WRITTEN BY AUTHORS WHO WERE THEMSELVES BOTH PROLIFIC AUTHORS AND WOMEN BREAKING ALL THE SOCIAL JUSTICE RULES - POVERTY, ENVIRONMENT, BATTLING THE ODDS, DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, AUTHENTIC DETAILS JUDY BLUME'S ARE YOU THERE, GOD, IT'S ME, MARGARET - AUTHENTIC VOICE, DOWN-TO-EARTH MARIE KILLILEA'S BOOK, KAREN -- ABOUT A MOTHER'S REFUSAL TO GIVE UP ON HER DAUGHTER WITH CEREBRAL PALSY. "MOTHER OF FIVE, AUTHOR, ACTIVIST, AND LOBBYIST FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY.

EXPERIENCED DEATH OF A BABY IN INFANCY."
BOOKS AS A VEHICLE FOR STORYTELLING,
ENTERTAINMENT - ESCAPE INTO OTHER WORLDS GREAT PLACE TO RETREAT AS A SOCIALLY
ANXIOUS KID

CONVEYING VALUES, SHAPING THE KIND OF PERSON I AM TODAY

PASSING ALONG INFORMATION AND FUELING CURIOSITY AND DESIRE FOR MORE ANSWERS TO YET MORE QUESTIONS

SELF-HELP, PERSONAL EXPRESSION, THERAPY (AFTER STILLBIRTH, I TURNED TO BOOKS - THEN WROTE BOOKS TO HELP OTHERS). PARENTING HAS BECOME AN INDUSTRY IN RECENT YEARS, GROSSLY COMMERCIALIZED. I'VE BEEN VERY UPSET TO SEE IT GO THAT WAY. TO ME, WRITING FOR PARENTS IS SOMETHING YOU DO BECAUSE YOU'RE PASSING ALONG INFORMATION YOU'VE LEARNED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE COLLECTIVE BODY OF PARENTING WISDOM. TO SEE THE QUALITY OF RESEARCH (EVIDENCE BASED, NON-JUDGMENTAL, REAL PARENTS) DECLINE REALLY UPSETS ME. FIRST, DO NO HARM. THAT SHOULD APPLY TO PARENTING WRITING AS WELL.

FASCINATED WITH EVERYTHING RELATED TO BOOKS. RESEARCH, READING, WRITING, BOOK INDUSTRY (NEW, USED), BOOK DESIGN, BOOK

MARKETING. STILL FUN AND FRESH AFTER 28 BOOKS. I MAKE BOOKS AS A HOBBY. I COLLECT BOOKS AS A HOBBY. I READ BOOKS AS A HOBBY. I MAKE BOOK NECKLACES AS A HOBBY.....

I HAVEN'T BECOME LESS CURIOUS AS I'VE GROWN OLDER. I'VE BECOME MORE CURIOUS. MY AREAS OF INTEREST CONTINUE TO BROADEN.
SO LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS AND READING AND WHAT THE FUTURE OF PUBLISHING WILL LOOK LIKE.

PUBLISHING IS IN FLUX. BOTH AN EXCITING TIME AND A CHALLENGING TIME TO BE A WRITER. JOURNALISM: EXCITING NEW MODELS BEING EXPLORED. ONLINE NEWSPAPERS THAT ARE JUST NEWSPAPERS DON'T WORK. THEY NEED TO BE COMMUNITY HUBS MEETING THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES IN REAL WAYS. COMMUNITY SERVICE IS WHAT MATTERS. BLOGS ARE ALREADY BECOMING DATED AS READERS MOVE TO MICRO-BLOGGING AND SOCIAL NETWORKS AND NEWS MASHUPS. IN MANY CASES NEWS IS STARTING WITH THE READER (USER-CREATED CONTENT) RATHER THAN BEING DELIVERED TO THE READER.

ITUNES UNIVERSITY: DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

HTTP://WWW.APPLE.COM/EDUCATION/TEACHERS-PROFESSORS/RESOURCES/

WHAT ITUNES UNIVERSITY IS ALL ABOUT

HTTP://WWW.APPLE.COM/CA/ITUNES/WHATSON/ITUNESU.HTML

NEIMAN FOUNDATION: JOURNALISM AT HARVARD:

RESOURCES FOR JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS

HTTP://WWW.NIEMAN HARVARD EDI//NIEMANEOLINDATION/ALID!

HTTP://WWW.NIEMAN.HARVARD.EDU/NIEMANFOUNDATION/AUDI ENCES/JOURNALISTSANDWRITERS.ASPX

WRITING HAVE TO KNOW THE INDUSTRY AND TO BE WILLING TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH OTHER AUTHORS TO SURVIVE IN AN INDUSTRY IN WHICH CONTRACTS CAN BE WORSE THAN DRACONIAN. (LM MONTGOMERY - DOUBLE OR TRIPLE INCOME FROM AN ARTICLE IN 1900. ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THAT TODAY. RATES HAVEN'T INCREASED SINCE 1970S. OFTEN DECREASING.)

WRITER AS PUBLISHER: PRINT AND ONLINE WORDS ARE FINDING NEW READERS IN NON-BOOK FORMS

THE NEW GENERATION OF READERS
BOOKS AND READING ARE STILL VERY MUCH
ALIVE: CANADA READS, CANADA WRITES, SMITH
MAGAZINE, POETRY FOUNDATION, PODCASTS OF
BOOK AND READING-RELATED CONTENT
SMITH MAGAZINE: SIX-WORD STORY PROJECTS
AND OTHER PLAYFUL APPROACHES TO WORDS

AND WRITING.

HTTP://SMITHMAG.NET

WORDLE.NET: A TOY FOR CREATING FOR CLOUDS. HTTP://WORDLE.NET

POETRY FOUNDATION.ORG (JUST THE RIGHT POEM FOR JUST THE RIGHT OCCASION: BILLY COLLINS - WORKSHOP)

HTTP://WWW.POETRYFOUNDATION.ORG/ARCHIVE/POEM.HTML? ID=176048

READING CEREAL BOXES (READ THE BOX CAMPAIGN FROM A FEW YEARS AGO: CHEERIOS/CASSIE CAMPBELL)

FIND AND MEET READERS WHERE THEY ARE AND CLASSIC LINE FROM "YOU HAD ME AT THE FIRST HELLO." - JERRY MCGUIRE. YOU HAD ME AT THE FIRST LINE.

IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW FIRST LINES, SIGN UP FOR TWITTERLIT

(HTTP://WWW.TWITTER.COM/TWITTERLIT/), AND ALL ITS VARIATIONS -- PLUS ALL THE OTHER WORD TOOLS AND TOYS.

CONSIDER THE POWER OF WORDS AT THE INAUGURATION THIS WEEK. OBAMA'S SPEECH, POEM OF INAUGURAL POET, THE BENEDICTION THAT WAS GIVEN BY CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER JOSEPH LOWERY: "LORD, IN THE MEMORY OF ALL THE SAINTS WHO FROM THEIR LABORS REST, AND IN THE JOY OF A NEW BEGINNING, WE ASK YOU TO HELP US WORK FOR THAT DAY WHEN BLACK WILL

NOT BE ASKED TO GET IN BACK, WHEN BROWN CAN STICK AROUND, WHEN YELLOW WILL BE MELLOW, WHEN THE RED MAN CAN GET AHEAD, MAN; AND WHEN WHITE WILL EMBRACE WHAT IS RIGHT. LET ALL THOSE WHO DO JUSTICE AND LOVE MERCY SAY AMEN. SAY AMEN. AND AMEN."
HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/JOSEPH_LOWERY# PRESIDENT_BARACK_OBAMA.27S_INAUGURATION_BENEDICTION

ABOUT ANN DOUGLAS:

HTTP://ANNDOUGLAS.TYPEPAD.COM/BLOGS/ HTTP://TWITTER.COM/ANNDOUGLAS