

# ***Animals Hibernating: How Animals Survive Extreme Conditions***

**by Pamela Hickman**

Every spring I'm amazed that the frogs and turtles return to my ponds, the groundhogs pop out of the fields and the chipmunks reappear in the woodpile. It's incredible that these creatures, and so many more, can survive the severe cold and snow that Canada's winter can bring. This book gives you an insider's look at what the animals are doing during the winter and how they survive our extreme climate. You'll meet animals that are barely alive all winter, and others that are just taking a really long nap.

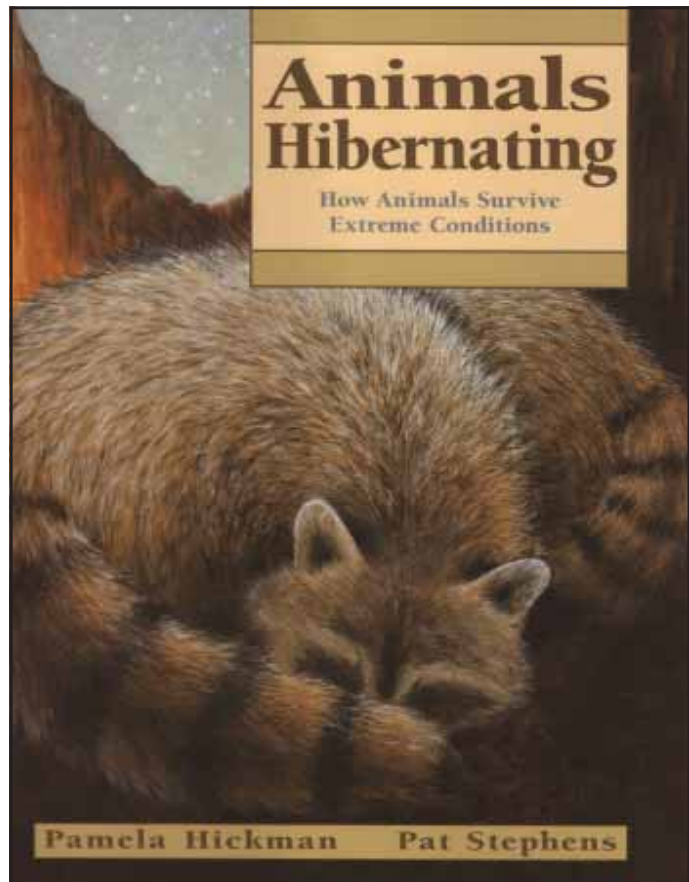
Some animals store food in their shelters; others store fat on their bodies before they hibernate. Each animal is different in how it prepares for its winter hideout - some for as long as eight months!

## **Thematic links:**

Animal adaptations  
Habitats  
Winter  
Diversity  
Estivation

## **Activity Ideas:**

- Make a model of a chosen animal in its hibernaculum (shelter during hibernation)
- Research an animal that hibernates and compare it to an animal that doesn't
- Keep a record of spring sightings of animals that hibernate to find out when they reappear
- Do the activities in the book (p. 11 How do you Rate?; p.13 Sweet Solution; p.25 Towel Trick)



# HACKMATAACK

2007

## **Pamela Hickman**

**author of  
*Animals Hibernating***



Pamela was raised in Mississauga, Ontario. She has an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Biology from the University of Waterloo. She worked as the Education Co-ordinator for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists for 7 years. She is now a freelance writer with 30 children's nature books published.

She moved to Canning, Nova Scotia in 1992 and is married with three daughters. She is a member of Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia and Writers in the School Program, the Canadian Children's Book Centre and former President of the Board of Directors for Apple Tree Landing Children's Centre, Canning, Nova Scotia.

"Through my books, I try to capture my readers' interest in nature by finding some of the truly weird and wonderful aspects of plants and animals. I'm very enthusiastic about the amazing creatures "out there" and I hope that comes through in my writing. I'm a big believer that creativity is an important part of writing non-fiction. It's what you do with the facts that counts! Many of my books also focus on hands-on activities that involve the reader in nature discovery. Developing a respect for nature and its conservation are my ultimate goals."

### **Selected Awards**

*Animals and Their Young*, shortlisted Science in Society Book Award 2004, Hackmataack Award 2005

*Animals Eating*, nominated Hackmataack Award 2003

*At the Seashore*, nominated Hackmataack Award 2000

*Animal Senses*, shortlisted Brimer Award 1998, Parents' Choice Award Honours

### **Some Other Books by Pamela Hickman**

*Animals in Motion*. Illustrated by Pat Stephens. Kids Can Press, 2000

*Animals Eating*. Illustrated by Pat Stephens. Kids Can Press, 2001

*Animals and their Young*. Illustrated by Pat Stephens. Kids Can Press, 2003

*Animals and their Mates*. Illustrated by Pat Stephens. Kids Can Press, 2004

*Turtle Rescue*. Firefly Books, 2005

*Birds of Prey Rescue*. Firefly Books, 2006

## ***Atlantic Puffin: Little Brother of the North***

by **Kristin Bieber Domm**

Atlantic puffins are amazing and beautiful creatures. Although they are not endangered, they teach us about the health of our oceans and how to better protect endangered seabirds.

In preparation for this book, my husband Jeffrey (the book's fantastic illustrator), our two sons, and I observed Atlantic puffins along the coast of Newfoundland's Bonavista Peninsula. We documented our research there with photographs and videotape—and were unbelievably lucky the day dozens of puffins landed near us on a headland. Gulls had temporarily chased the puffins off their island colony. What a gift to see these colourful birds up close!

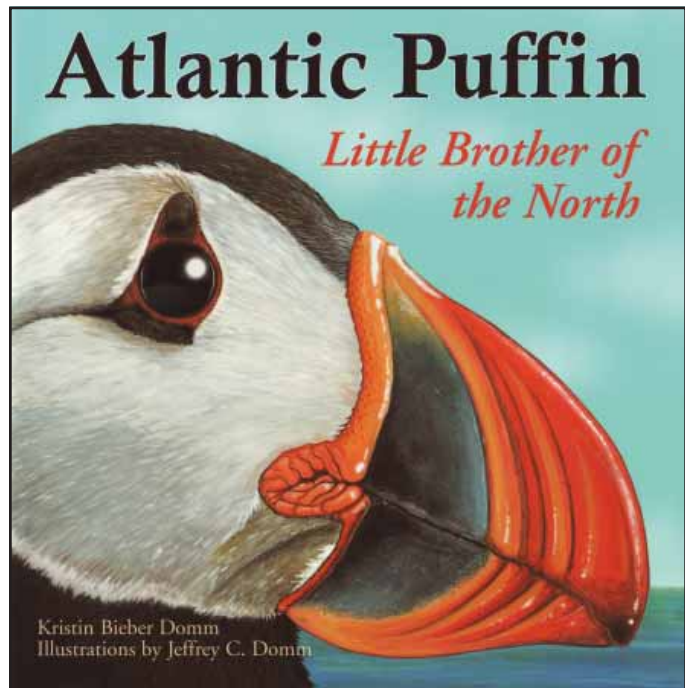
I wrote this nonfiction book in an unusual way: I used a puffin narrator. I wanted to describe the Atlantic puffin's behaviour, habitat, and life cycle in a way that would make the book both fun to read and unique. It was also important that the text and illustrations worked well together. During the revision process, kids like you encouraged me to keep the puffin's narrative voice. So I did.

### **Thematic links:**

Seabirds  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Oceans  
Animal habitats  
Animal life cycles  
Provincial and territorial Birds  
Interplay between text and illustrations

### **Activity Ideas:**

- Create the text and illustrations for a nonfiction book about an animal you have observed.
- Explore the history of Newfoundland's Bonavista Peninsula.
- Research your provincial bird, or the official bird of another territory or province.
- Diagram the life cycle of the Atlantic Puffin.
- Write about the life of one of the Atlantic Puffin's enemies—from the enemy's point of view.
- Create a poster to compare/contrast Atlantic Puffins and penguins.



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## **Kristin Bieber Domm**

**author of *Atlantic Puffin***

My family moved from Nova Scotia to Detroit exactly one year before I was born. I grew up in the neighbourhood near the Ambassador Bridge—no puffins there. But every third summer I'd return to Nova Scotia to visit my grandmother, and I would be transfixed by the beauty of the maritime landscape and its wildlife. So, although I grew up a "city girl", it's no surprise that I wrote this book about Atlantic puffins.

I have always loved to write. For the past twenty-five years I have been writing with—and learning from—my language arts and English-as-a-second language students. (I am currently writing a nonfiction book about language.) Where else do I find inspiration and ideas for writing? In the experiences of living in different places—Detroit, Kenya (I was a high school exchange student there), India, Chicago, and Nova Scotia, where I have now lived for the past fourteen years. To me, writing is a time/space machine. A transporter.

In addition to writing and teaching, I enjoy playing the bassoon and exploring the forests and beaches of Cow Bay, where I live with my husband and two teenaged sons.



### **Selected Awards**

*The Hatchling's Journey: A Blanding's Turtle Story*, Hackmataack Award Nomination, 2005

### **Some Other Books by Kristin Bieber Domm**

*The Hatchling's Journey: A Blanding's Turtle Story*, Nimbus, 2003

*Ahmed and the Nest of Sand: A Piping Plover Story*, Nimbus, 2000

## ***Backyard Birds***

by Robert Bateman

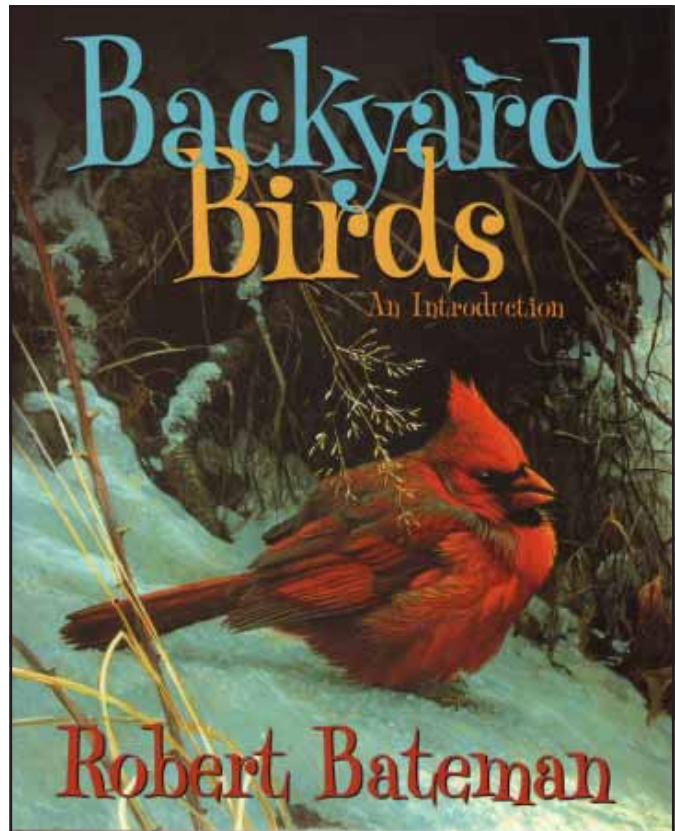
Renowned wildlife artist and naturalist Robert Bateman invites young birders to discover the wonderful world of birds that exists in their own backyards. Chock-full of Bateman's lifelike paintings and sketches, *Backyard Birds* also includes easy tips for identifying, feeding, and attracting birds of all kinds. There's no better way to start a lifelong adventure with birds!

### **Thematic Links:**

Wildlife observation  
Canadian wildlife  
Endangered species  
Habitat  
Life cycles  
Eating habits  
Migration  
Senses  
Song and sound

### **Activity Ideas:**

- Learn about observing birds in nature and take field trips to do this
- Spend a couple of hour in your backyard or local park watching birds. Take notes on everything they do. Take notes on what they look like.
- Bring some life model of birds to class. Paint or sketch pictures of them while observing them carefully.
- Compare Bateman's bird paintings to those of other artists.
- Check out different bird ID books. What are their differences?
- Make a map showing where your classmates live and the birds they have observed in their backyards.



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## **Robert Bateman**

author of *Backyard Birds*

“I can’t conceive of anything being more varied and rich and handsome than the planet Earth. And its crowning beauty is the natural world. I want to soak it up, to understand it as well as I can, and to absorb it, and then I’d like to put it together and express it in my painting. This is the way I want to dedicate my life.”



Robert Bateman was born in Toronto Ontario but now lives and works on Saltspring Island, off the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. He has an international reputation for his art. His paintings have been in major exhibitions and are in permanent collections throughout the world. He has been honoured with honorary degrees and awards, including most recently the President’s Medal from the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada and the Roland Michener Conservation Award through the Canadian Wildlife Federation. He has many books and films about his work and has served on several boards and organizations to do with nature and the environment.

For more information: [www.robertbateman.ca](http://www.robertbateman.ca)

### **Selected Awards**

Queen’s Jubilee Medal, 2002

Order of British Columbia, 2001

US National Audubon Society, one of 20th century’s 100 Champions of Conservation, 1998

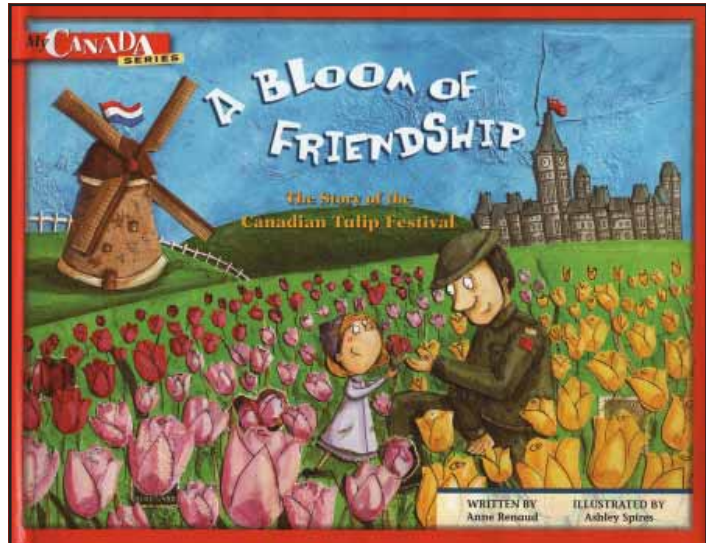
### **Some Other Books by Robert Bateman**

*Birds*, with Kathryn Dean, Madison 2002

*Thinking like a Mountain*, with Rick Archbold, Penguin, 2000

*Safari*, with Rick Archbold, Madison, 1998

***A Bloom of Friendship:  
The Story of  
the Canadian  
Tulip Festival***  
by Anne Renaud



My uncle, Thomas Delaney, was 18 years old when he traveled overseas to fight in World War II. Shortly after he arrived in Holland, he was wounded in battle. To avoid being captured by the enemy, he hid in a barn where a Dutch family with small children was also hiding.

Fifty years later, my uncle traveled back to Holland for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the liberation of the Netherlands. During this visit, he was able to find the barn in which he had hidden, and met one of the children, who was now grown up, that had been hiding in the barn with him.

My uncle's story was my inspiration to write *A Bloom of Friendship*.

The Dutch people are extremely grateful to Canadians for the role we played in liberating their country. One symbol of this friendship is our annual tulip festival. I realized that many people did not know why we have a tulip festival and felt that this story needed to be told, as it is an important part of our history.

**Thematic Links:**

Remembrance Day  
Ottawa Tulip Festival  
WW11  
Life under occupation, resistance movements  
Liberation of Holland, Canada's involvement  
Nations helping nations  
National symbols  
Dutch Royal Family

**Activity Ideas:**

- Invite a man or woman who experienced the war first-hand (soldier, pilot, nurse, war bride, refugee, resistance fighter, etc.) to your classroom or library to share their experiences and stories.
- Search the internet for acts of thinaks between nations. First brainstorm what key words you would type into the search engine.
- Investigate getting a pen pal from a war-torn country.

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## **Anne Renaud**

author of  
***A Bloom of Friendship***

I am a life-long Quebecker, currently living in Montreal. I have been a writer for almost 10 years now. My articles, craft project and stories have been published in a number of children's magazines, including *YESMag*, *Spider*, *Cricket*, *Appleseeds*, *CHIRP* and *Highlights for Children*. I also teach arts and craft projects. *A Bloom of Friendship: The Story of the Canadian Tulip Festival*, is my first children's book, and is dedicated to my uncle who fought in Holland during World War II.

### **Selected Awards**

*A Bloom of Friendship*, short-listed Silver Birch, 2006



### **Some other books by Anne Renaud**

Children's Book Translations:

*Viens t'asseoir avec moi*, Héritage, 1991

*La lueur du matin*, Héritage, 1995

*How the Sea Came to Marissa*, Beyond Words, May 2007

I have published over a hundred non-fiction articles and craft projects in Canadian, American, and Australian children's magazines, including *YESMag*, *Cricket*, *CHIRP*, *Helix*, *Faces*, *Spider*, *Appleseeds*, *Highlights for Children*, *Odyssey* and *Read*.

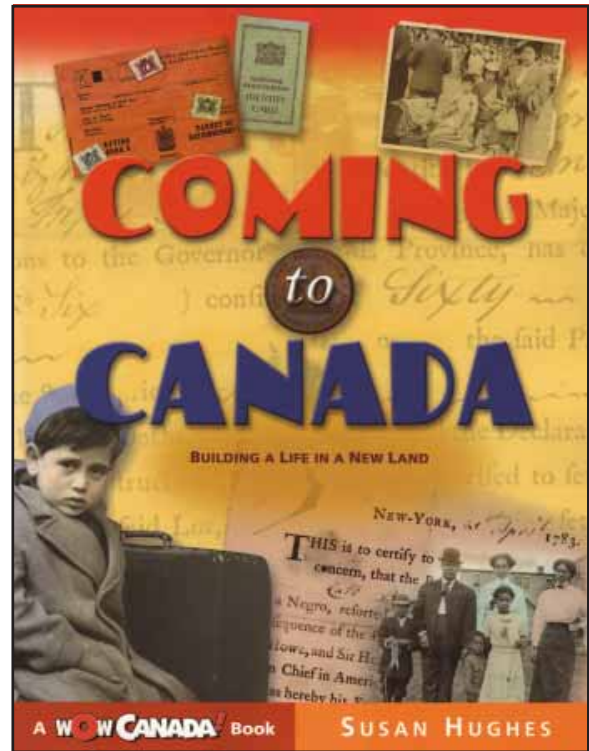


## ***Coming to Canada: Building a Life in a New World***

by Susan Hughes

How long have people been coming to Canada? Two hundred years? Three hundred? Try 12,000 to 30,000 years! From those first Stone Age “immigrants” and right up to the present day, people have been coming from all over the world to make this land their new home.

There are as many stories of immigration as there are people in Canada. This lavishly illustrated book brings together these stirring human dramas, and it’s through their telling that the country’s story unfolds.



### **Thematic links:**

Immigration  
 United Nations  
 Maps  
 Culture, arts, artifacts, lifestyles around the world  
 Multiculturalism  
 Transportation  
 Languages

### **Activity Ideas:**

- Check out the websites listed at the end of this book!
- Choose a classmate whose ancestors came from a different place than yours did. Have that classmate teach you some words and phrases from their ancestors' language.
- Interview your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles about your cultural heritage. Make a chart using pictures and maps to tell the story of your family's coming to Canada.
- Find out what other countries have been settled mostly by immigrants.
- Brainstorm about the new things (food, artifacts, rituals) immigrants bring to a country. Organize a 'multicultural day' in which students display some of these things.

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## **Susan Hughes**

**author of *Coming to Canada***

Susan Hughes is a writer and editor, and has been writing children's books and articles for nearly twenty years. Susan has always loved writing. When she was in grade five and six, she and several friends had a writing club. They would gather with their poems and stories and read them aloud to one another. It was hard to wait for the responses! The group members always tried to say one thing that was positive, along with a constructive comment.

After finishing high school, Susan studied English literature at the University of Toronto. One summer, before her last year, she went to the job posting board and saw an ad: A children's publishing house was looking for summer help from students. She answered the ad and was hired. She learned a lot that summer about writing, researching, editing, proof-reading, and working as a team. When she graduated, she worked for a year with the children's publishing house – then began freelancing, working on her own to find editing and writing work. Soon she was getting calls asking her to do jobs such as write short articles for educational books. While she was doing this paid work, she was also working on her own ideas for books.



Susan writes both fiction and non-fiction. She is often asked to write a book on a topic she knows little about! So she does lots of research and briefly becomes an expert on that subject. Sometimes she works with experts, for example when she wrote about the Megalodon, the prehistoric shark, or Titanic. She often has to do research for her fictional works as well, for example, the Wild Paws series. Susan had to learn a lot about how to care for injured or motherless wild baby animals so that she could make the books realistic and factual, as well as entertaining.

Susan lives in Toronto in a tall house with a red door. She works in her living room at home. She opens the windows wide — and sometimes the front door too! — and sits where she can see the trees and the sunlight. She lives with her three children, her boyfriend, and his two children. One of her favourite parts of the day is when all the kids come home after school and she gets to visit with them and hear stories about their day.

### **Selected Awards**

*Earth to Audrey*, short-listed for Shining Willow Award, 2007; nominated Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award, 2006.

*Canada Invents*, short-listed for Hackmataack Award, 2004; short-listed for Red Cedar Award, 2005.

### **Some Other Books by Susan Hughes**

*Raise Your Voice, Lend a Hand, Change the World*, Scholastic Canada, 2007.

*Earth to Audrey*, Kids Can Press, 2005.

*Bunnies in Trouble: #3*, Scholastic Canada, 2004

*Orphaned Beluga: #4*, Scholastic Canada, 2004

*Cubs All Alone: #5*, Scholastic Canada, 2004

*Lester Pearson: The Canadians*, Fitzhenry Whiteside, 2004

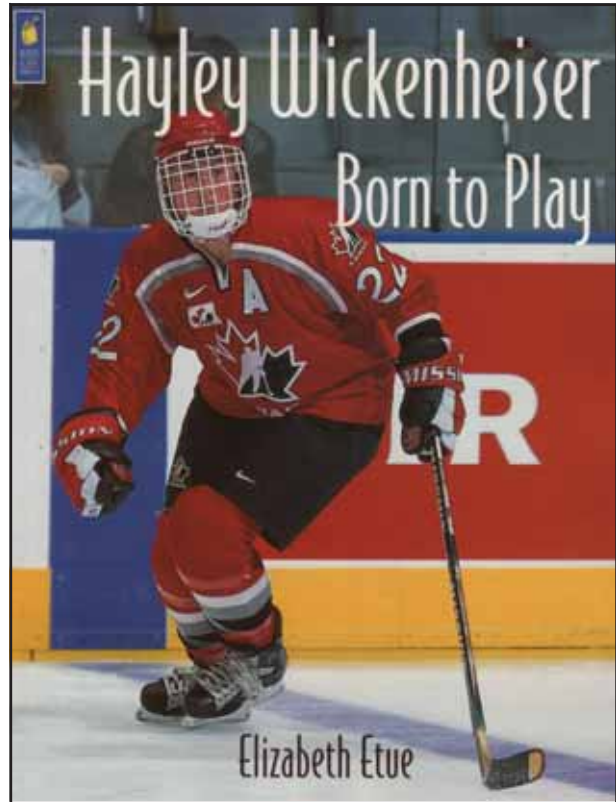
*Let's Call It Canada: Amazing Stories of Canadian Place Names*, Maple Tree Press, 2003.

*Canada Invents*, Owl Books, 2002.

***Hayley Wickenheiser:  
Born to Play***  
by Elizabeth Etue

This book is about the struggles, goals and remarkable success of a young female hockey player trying to achieve the highest level in a sport defined by men. She is young, gifted and willing to make huge sacrifices to be the best. By playing hockey full time she is living the dream of many aspiring athletes. Her story is about courage, bold action and ambitious dreams.

I wrote the book because Hayley is one of the stars on the national team and there was no player's story told for children. I also think that Hayley Wickenheiser is an unusual combination of skills, intelligence and burning determination who is willing to push herself beyond what other players have done in order to excel. I thought it was important for children to see how long it takes and how hard an athlete has to work to succeed in a sport. Hayley believed from a very young age that she was born to play to hockey and that belief along with hard work, talent, support and tenacity took her into the elite levels of hockey. So Hayley's message for me was always believe in yourself. You can accomplish amazing things.



**Thematic links:**

Conflict resolution  
Hockey  
Women in sports  
Leadership  
Team sports v.s. individual sports  
Gender issues in sports

**Activity Ideas:**

- Debate whether women's hockey should be a NHL sport.
- Discuss what leadership traits enabled Haley to become assistant captain of her hockey team. What makes a good leader?
- Discuss whether girls should play on boys hockey teams.
- Why did Hayley play in Finland? How did that help her or the women's game?
- Invite a female hockey player in to share their experience playing the sport.

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## **Elizabeth Etue**

**author of *Hayley Wickenheiser***

I started playing hockey in 1990 and discovered all these untold stories in the game. When I injured my knee and back I was unable to play any more.

I have been writing about women's hockey since 1992 when I went to Finland for the second world championship. I think if kids like my book about Hayley, they would love the documentary I made called *Chasing the Dream, Women's International Hockey*, made for CBC Television 2002. I also did a calendar called *Women's Hockey Heroes* and a full colour magazine in 1998 called *Overtime* which is no longer in print.

I am developing a book on the national team for 2010 and would love to get feedback from kids on what they would like to see in it.



### **Selected Awards**

Canadian Association for Advancement of Women in Sport Award, 2002

### **Some Other Books by Elizabeth Etue**

*On the Edge, Women Making Hockey History* coauthor with Megan Williams. Second Story Press 1996 (Adult)

*Chasing the Dream, Women's International Hockey* writer/producer of documentary made for CBC Television 2002

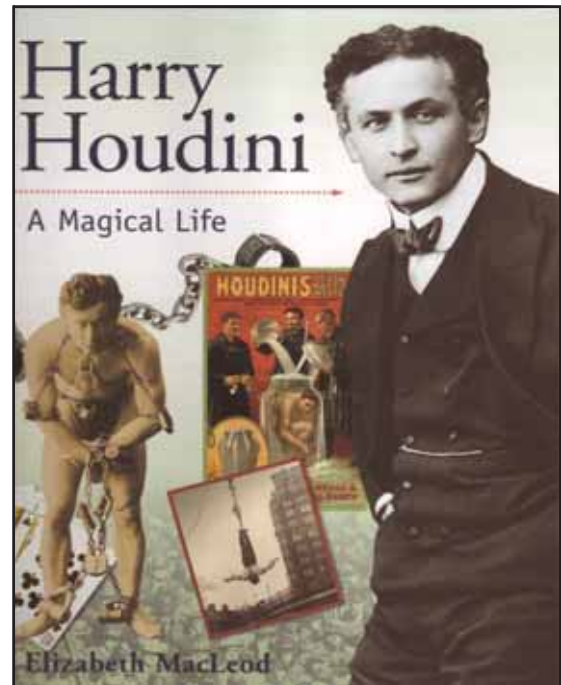
## ***Harry Houdini: A Magical Life*** by Elizabeth MacLeod

I've been interested in Harry Houdini ever since I was in grade seven. That's when I bought a book about him through our school's book club. I was curious about how he did all of his amazing tricks - but I never dreamed that I'd ever write a book about him.

An author isn't supposed to have a favourite book but this book about Harry might be mine. I had a lot of fun researching his life because there are so many great stories about him. Harry changed the facts to make the stories better, too. That made it tough to find out what was really true but I enjoyed the challenge.

The world of magic was changed by Harry's performances and he is the most-famous magician ever. But Harry was also an escape artist and movie star - and did you know that he was also the first person to ever fly in Australia?

Harry came from a very poor family. At first, he was a failure as a magician. But this amazing magician overcame these obstacles to live a life full of spectacular stunts, daring escapes, fun and excitement.



### **Thematic Links:**

History. Social Studies  
Biography  
Magic  
Performance  
Perseverance  
Creativity

### **Activity Ideas:**

- Design a poster for a Houdini show.
- Learn more about Jean-Eugene Robert Houdin, who inspired Harry.
- Write a letter as if you're Harry writing to his mother, to his wife (Bess) or to his brother (Hardeen).  
Brag as much as you like!
- With a friend, pretend one of you is Harry and the other an interviewer. Interview Harry about an upcoming show, then switch places. Dress up and present your interview to your class.
- Watch some of the movies in which Harry starred. How are these movies different from modern movies?
- Learn a magic trick, such as this one: Have a friend pick a number. Tell her to add to it the next higher number. Ask her to add 9. Tell her to divide by 2. Ask her to subtract the original number. Pretend to read her mind, then tell her that the number she's left with is 5 - and you'll always be right.

# HACKMATAACK

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## **Elizabeth MacLeod**

**author of Harry Houdini**

I haven't always wanted to be a writer. I went through school not knowing what I would do when I was older. When I went to university I studied sciences; I didn't take any writing courses.

After I graduated I worked in a lab, an office, a flower shop - still nothing to do with writing. By this time I wanted to be a writer, but I was scared to admit it. However, I had some articles published in newspapers, I studied writing and editing and soon had a job as an editor at OWL magazine. An editor is the person who works with authors to decide what part of a story goes first, where the commas go, etc. Ever noticed how easy it is to find mistakes in other people's writing but how easy it is to miss them in your own? That's why I don't edit myself.

Now I'm a writer and an editor. I love writing because it lets me investigate so many interesting people and topics. I never know what my next book will be but I hope you'll enjoy it!



### **Selected Awards**

*Marie Curie: A Brilliant Life*, nominated Hackmataack Award

*Albert Einstein: A Life of Genius*, nominated Red Cedar Book Award, Silver Birch Award and Hackmataack Award

*The Wright Brothers: A Flying Start*, nominated Red Cedar Book Award

*Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Writer's Life*, nominated Hackmataack Award, Silver Birch Award, Rocky Mountain Book Award

*To the Top of Everest*, nominated Red Cedar Book Award, Silver Birch Award, Hackmataack Award

### **Some other books by Elizabeth MacLeod**

*Eleanor Roosevelt: An Inspiring Life*. Kids Can Press Ltd., 2006

*The Kids Book of Great Canadian Women*. Kids Can Press, 2006

*Chock Full of Chocolate*. Kids Can Press, 2005

*The Kids Book of Great Canadians*. Kids Can Press, 2004

*Helen Keller: A Perceptive Life*. Kids Can Press, 2004

*Marie Curie: A Brilliant Life*. Kids Can Press, 2004

*Bake and Make Amazing Cookies*. Kids Can Press, 2004

*Albert Einstein: A Life of Genius*. Kids Can Press, 2003

*The Wright Brothers: A Flying Start*. Kids Can Press, 2002

## **Scholastic Canada Biographies: Canadian Artists**

by Maxine Trottier

These five biographies tell the stories of five Canadians whose visual gifts have given us unique glimpses of Canada. Included are the lives of Cornelius Krieghoff, who recorded 19th century life in Quebec, and Tom Thomson, who glorified the woodlands of northern Ontario. Also featured are Emily Carr, the west coast impressionist, Alex Colville, the east coast magic-realist, and Kenojuak Ashevak, the celebrated Inuit printmaker.

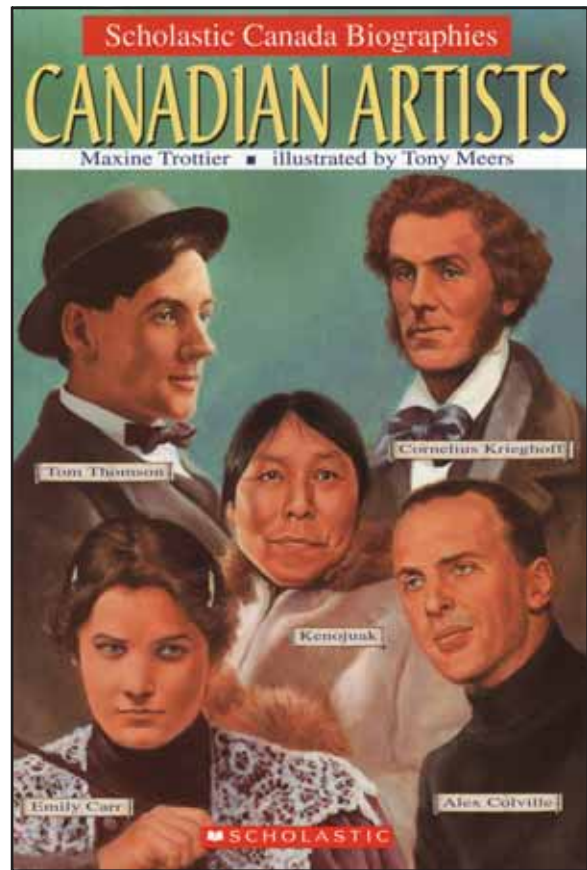
### **Thematic links:**

<http://projects.cbe.ab.ca/ict/2Learn/romorleyande/artplan.htm>

[http://www.artistsincanada.com/php/monthly\\_artists.php?start=120](http://www.artistsincanada.com/php/monthly_artists.php?start=120)

<http://www.absolutearts.com/artsnews/1999/08/30/25889.html>

[http://www.art2life.ca/user\\_agreement.cfm](http://www.art2life.ca/user_agreement.cfm)



### **Activity Ideas:**

- Create a work of art in the style of one of the book's artists.
- Imagine you are the pet of one of the artists. Write a story about your adventures with that person.
- A previously unknown work of art by X has been discovered. Write a newspaper article about the discovery.
- Compare paintings of all five artists. Use these categories: medium, colours used, topic, size, location today, etc.
- Compare all the artists. Use these categories: training, time period in which artists worked, reasons why art remains important to Canadians, number of works produced, etc.
- There is a new school of art in Canada! Name it, describe it, show some of its important art.
- Visit an art gallery or artist's studio.
- The following online lesson plans may be of use in developing plans

appropriate to your students' needs and levels:

Krieghoff - <http://www.cindyntaylor.com/art.htm>

Thomson - [http://cybermuseum.gallery.ca/cybermuseum/teachers/plans/intro\\_e.jsp?lessonid=2](http://cybermuseum.gallery.ca/cybermuseum/teachers/plans/intro_e.jsp?lessonid=2)

Carr - <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/EmilyCarrHomeWork/guide/index.htm>

Colville (little available in terms of lesson plans) - <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/courage/alexcolville.html>

Kenojuak Ashevak - <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/world/edu/lesson2.htm>

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## **Maxine Trottier** author of *Canadian Artists*

Maxine Trottier is a prolific writer of books for young people. Born in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan on May 3, 1950, she moved to Windsor, Ontario in Canada with her family ten years later. In 1974 she became a Canadian citizen. She is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario.

Maxine spent 31 years working as an educator in elementary classrooms, guiding children toward literacy. The students in her class, who of course thought of her only as their teacher, saw each step in the creation of a new work. They heard the unillustrated story, saw the roughs, and were the first to view the finished book.

Maxine lives with her husband William and their two Yorkies, Ceilidh and Moon. They divide their year between Port Stanley, Ontario on Lake Erie, and Newman's Cove, Newfoundland, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Both small fishing towns are wonderful places to write.

More may be found at her web page <http://www.maxinetrottier.com>



### **Selected Awards**

*The Tiny Kite of Eddie Wing*, FWTAO Writers' Award, 1995; Silver Birch, Red Maple

*Native Crafts*, Parents Choice Recommended Book 2000

*Dreamstones*, Short listed the 2000 Ruth Schwartz Award, Short listed for the 2000 Amelia Francis Howard-Gibbon Award, Short listed for the 2002 Hackmataack Award

*Flags*, The White Raven Award of the International Youth Library 2000, Recipient of The Storytelling World Honor Title, 2000.

*Prairie Willow*, Short listed for the Ruth Schwartz award 1999, Notable Book, Social Studies, Childrens Books Council Childrens Choice selection, Childrens Book Council and International Reading Association.

*A Safe Place*, Awarded first place standing in the 1997 Chicago Women in Publishing competition in the women's issues category; tied for first place in the juvenile trade category.

*Our Canadian Flag*, Short listed for the 2005 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award Short listed for the 2004-2005 Blue Spruce Award

### **Other books by Maxine Trottier**

*Our Canadian Flag*, Scholastic Canada, 2004

*Canadian Leaders*, Scholastic Canada, 2004

*Canadian Explorers*, Scholastic Canada, 2004

*Sister to the Wolf*, Kids Can Press, Canada, 2004

*The Long White Scarf*, F&W, Canada, 2005

*Mr. Hiroshi's Garden*, F&W, 2005

*Terry Fox: A Story of Hope*, Scholastic Canada, 2005

*The Death of My Country*, *Dear Canada Series*, Scholastic Canada, 2005



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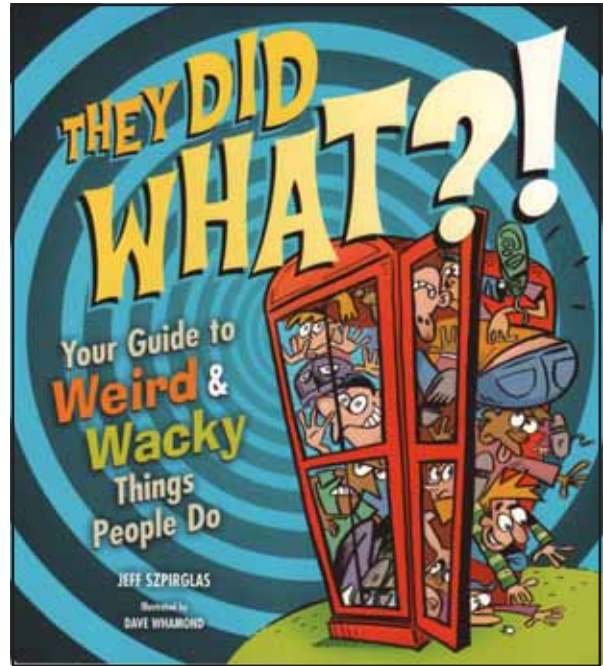
## ***They Did What! Your Guide to Weird and Wacky Things People Do***

**by Jeff Szpirglas**

*They Did WHAT?!* holds up a carnival funhouse mirror to the human race, showing us a hilarious reflection of foibles, flubs, and foolishness.

Over the course of history we have achieved remarkable things: the Great Pyramids, space travel, and the World Wide Web—blue ribbons of humanity. But why not celebrate our eccentricities, our famous bloopers, the bits that have been edited out for so long—pet rocks, air guitar contests, and turkey-and-gravy soda. It's time to embrace, not erase! Jeff Szpirglas takes a stand, and awards the booby prize to history's most ridiculous fads, hoaxes, daredevils, advertising, urban legends, inventions, and more.

*They Did WHAT?!* features "What if..." scenarios that put a twist on certain behaviors to highlight the absurdity behind them. "What if...the latest fad was barracuda swallowing?" That would surely out-do those goldfish-swallowing college kids of the 1930s! Recurrent characters, Professor and Student, exchange a lighthearted and witty banter offering kid-friendly humor, and quirky facts, and related information. Szpirglas, author of *Gross Universe: Your Guide to All Disgusting Things Under the Sun*, homes his magnifying glass in on the laugh-a-minute legends of humanity. With the same lightning-fast wit and positive energy, *They Did WHAT?!* is sure to be another wild (and educational) ride!



### **Thematic Links:**

Risk-takers  
Eccentrics  
Experimentation  
Humour  
Fantastic feats

### **Activity Ideas:**

- What is the weirdest, most amazing thing you have ever done? Write about it as if you were a journalist reporting for the local newspaper or television.
- Who is the most eccentric, unusual person you know? What makes them special?
- Research other experiments or deeds or daring-do that interest you. Why do you find them interesting?
- If you were going to invent something, what would it be and why?
- Research urban legends. Have you ever heard a story that turned out to be a myth?

# HACKMATAACK

2007

## **Jeff Szpirglas**

**author of *They Did What!***

Jeff was born in Hamilton, Ontario, but lives in Toronto now. His favourite books growing up were Jacob Two-Two Meets The Hooded Fang by Mordecai Richler and many of Roald Dahl's works: *The Witches*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He loved the Fighting Fantasy series of role-playing adventures, and collected books about reptiles. He was also addicted to the television series *Doctor Who* when I was younger.

"When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them that I teach and write books. Then they get excited and ask what kind of books I write. I always enjoy watching the expressions on their faces when I explain that my first book was about vomit."

About writing: "All of the typing and editing take place on my computer. Ideas can come from anywhere, and at any time: in the shower, while you're working, even when you're blowing your nose. You have to be prepared. Make sure you have a pad of paper and a pencil to jot your ideas down with. And keep some Kleenex handy. I try to use as many different sources as I can. If I'm writing a fact book, I like to make sure that my facts don't just come from one place. I go to the library to look at books, university libraries to study journals, I search the Internet, I ask friends and people who are experts—it's a very long process."



### **Selected Awards**

*Gross Universe*, IPPY finalist, Juvenile/YA Non-fiction category 2005; 2004 Canadian Science Writers Assoc. Science in Society Children's Book Award; year's Best, Resource Links

### **Some Other Books by Jeff Szpirglas**

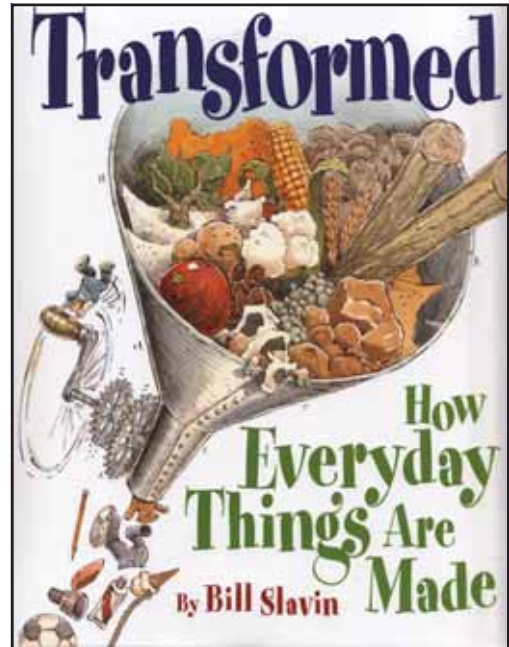
*Gross Universe*, *Your Guide to All Disgusting Things Under the Sun*, Maple Tree Press, 2004  
*Fear This Book*, *Your Guide to Fright, Horror and All Things that go Bump in the Night*, Maple Tree Press, 2006

## ***Transformed: How Everyday Things are Made***

by **Bill Slavin**

*Transformed* is a book about how everyday things are made. Things like pencils and shoes and baseballs, the stuff that's all around us and we have no real sense of where it came from or what it started out as. I realised one day that I was surrounded with stuff that I knew nothing about and that there was a time not so many hundreds of years ago when that wouldn't have been the case. A kid in the middle ages would have had a pretty good idea of where everything around him came from, from the shoes on his feet to the food on the table or even the material used to build his home. I wanted to write a book that peeled away some of the mystery, that answered those small questions about my world that I didn't know and thought that I should.

The book tries in as many cases as possible to follow things back to the raw materials they were made from, materials included in the "Basics" chapter at the end of the book. I wanted to explain how plastic toys start as oil or that shiny aluminum foil is made from a dull red rock called bauxite. The book isn't supposed to answer every little question about the manufacturing process, but instead give you an idea about the history of different products (who first made breakfast cereal?) and the stages that something goes through to be "transformed" into the things we use, wear and play with every day.



### **Thematic Links:**

Innovations through history, discovery and experimentation  
 Famous inventors  
 Periods of Man: Ice Age, Middle Ages, Industrial Revolution...  
 Manufacturing processes

Note: See a series of video tapes called *How It's Made* (Filmwest Associates) that are based on footage from factories, and provide a fascinating introduction to the world of manufacturing.

### **Activity Ideas:**

- Find recipes for and make your own (with teacher or parent permission): toothpaste, ice cream, chewing gum, dolls, pottery, paper, etc. How do your methods compare to the methods in this book?
- Check the Internet to discover museums or factories nearby where you can observe the manufacture of some of these items. Visit one of them.
- Pick your favourite item and research it's history and geography. Present your findings to the class, or hold an 'Inventions Day' for the entire school.
- Note: Many manufacturing organizations have quite extensive sites on their industry, including how their product is made, especially companies that deal with resource materials, like mining, lumber, and paper products etc. Stanford University also has a great site that has compiled a list of many sites with info and animations on manufacturing.

Some of the things in this book can be made in the classroom. try them!

# HACKMATAACK

2007

## **Bill Slavin**

**author of *Transformed***



Bill Slavin was born February 12, 1959 in Belleville, Ontario, the seventh of eight children. He illustrated his first book, *The Adventures of Zok the Caveman*, when he was seven. It was published in an edition of

one. He has been writing and illustrating ever since. He has illustrated over sixty children's books, fiction and nonfiction, including *Stanley's Party* by Linda Bailey, winner of the 2004 Blue Spruce Award and *Stanley's Wild Ride*, also by Linda Bailey. He has also illustrated *The Cat Came Back*, *The Bear on the Bed* by Ruth Miller and the *Good Times Travel Agency* series by Linda Bailey. In 1995 he wrote and illustrated his own book, *The Stone Lion*, and had more recently written and illustrated (with help from his big brother Jim) a book on how every day things are made called *Transformed*, which he spent five years researching, writing and illustrating. And most recently, he has illustrated a novel called *the Strictest School in the World*, written by his good friend and self-described runaway English school boy, Howard Whitehouse.

He primarily uses acrylics when he is illustrating a picture book and ink and watercolour for his nonfiction work. His favourite books are stories that are placed in an historical context, or books with lots of action and humour to illustrate.

Today he is living in the village of Millbrook with his wife, Esperanca Melo, who is also an artist and the co-illustrator of a picture book called *Drumheller Dinosaur Dance*, and their cat Merlin, who does no writing or illustrating. They are both members of a local art gallery collective, The Millbrook Gallery, which, although presently without a permanent home, still shows as a group on a regular basis. They have lived and worked in this community since 1990.

They have lived and worked in this community since 1990.

### **Selected Awards**

*Transformed*, nominated 2006 IBBY (Juvenile Non-fiction); nominated 2006 ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Award; 2005 National Parenting Publications Gold Award  
*Bigbeard's Hook*, 2006 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award Nomination  
2006; Shining Willow Award Nomination; 2005 Blue Spruce Award Nomination  
*Stanley's Party*, 2006-2007 California Young Reader Medal Nomination; 2006 SMART Book Award; 2005 Georgia Children's Book Award; 2004 CLA Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award; 2004 B.C. Book Awards Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize  
*Something to Tell the Grandcows*, 2005-2006 Black Eyed Susan Book Award (Maryland Educational Media Organization) Nomination; 2007 Arizona Young Reader Award Nomination

### **Some Other Books written or illustrated by Bill Slavin**

*Adventures with The Vikings* (illustrated) Kids Can Press, 2001  
*Bleeps and Blips to Rocket Ships; Great Inventions in Communications* (illustrated) Tundra Books, 2001  
*Adventures in Ancient Greece* (illustrated), Kids Can Press, 2002  
*The Big Book of Canada* (illustrated) Tundra Books, 2002  
*The Library Book: From Camels to Computers* (illustrated), Tundra 2006

For more titles go to: <http://www.canscaip.org/bios/slavinb.html>