



## *August Newsletter*

Summer's half gone and we're still in the Twilight Zone. COVID-19 is not done with transforming our world in everyway. The pandemic is painfully destructive: the economy, education, socialization and most devastatingly, lives.

COVID has affected everyone. Us, too. As months passed, we decreased doing many things, shopping at our regular retailers, browsing at our main libraries, socializing with family and friends. The last, most painful as we no longer have dinners and barbecues as before.

Finally, some things are beginning to change. With growing hope, our governments inch our communities back labelling the changes 'Stage 2,' 'Stage 3.' But each time there are cautious warnings about a 2<sup>nd</sup> wave, a 3<sup>rd</sup> wave. We keep inching forward, backward really, toward our old world, the normal way of life but there'll be no turning back. We now live in a "new normal."

All of us are trying to return to our normal, former way of life but COVID refuses to release its choke hold on us. Using every precaution, we have learned, hand washing, mask wearing, limited social gathering, maximum social distancing and restricted visitation to stores and public buildings, we are determined to our old lives, life as it used to be. It is an optimistic way of living, but we all want to return to what we knew was normal, to the life we had before.

### ***Our website***

Our website has been changed a little to make things easier to find, to manage. We eliminated category labels in our posts. The titles now speak for themselves.

### ***Books***

We have tired of TV and the movie dregs being offered repeatedly. Even the re-opened cinemas are touting a return to the old classics movies screened in the past. Hollywood isn't operating normally. So, we have reverted to reading, with more dedication, devotion and focus. We are analyzing and examining what we read with a more myopic eye. Which author is our favourite?

What makes him/her so? And we have dedicated our summertime reading more specifically to reading the books written by the authors who are connected with our site.

***Our website published authors***

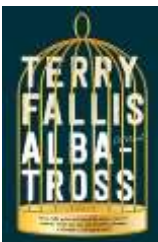
Visit our site and consider supporting our published authors. They have dedicated their professional lives to writing books to entertain and enlighten you.

With great pleasure and satisfaction, we have read....



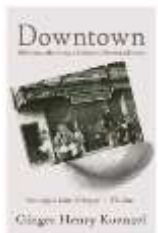
**Cheryl Bristow, [\*A Shield in the Shadows\*](#)**

A romantic encapsulation of the dying days of the Roman Empire.



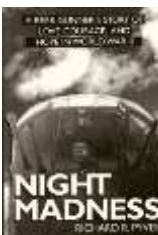
**Terry Fallis, [\*Albatross\*](#)**

An award winning Canadian humourist writes a paean to golf and its passionate devotees.



**Ginger Kuenzel, [\*Downtown\*](#)**

Humour a la Erma Bombeck but closer to home...Muskoka, Haliburton and small town living.



**Rick Pyves, [\*Midnight Madness\*](#)**

A son's tribute to his father who served as a WWII bomber tail gunner in the RAF.



**Sheila Tucker, [\*Rag Dolls and Rage\*](#)**

A courageous memoir written by a survivor of an incredibly abusive childhood.

***My reading list is not complete yet...***



**Lucy Black, [The Marzipan Fruit Basket](#)**

A collection of short stories, summertime patio reading.



**Howard Pell, [Retire Fit, Fit & Fit](#)**

Fitness: financial, physical, and emotional. Instructive direction to better living.

***Richard reads and reviews***

We not only read, we also record and review what we read. Check out

[Bookz/BOOKS/REVIEWS/RICHARD reviews](#) to see the top 100 books we have read and reviewed.



**[Meet the author event](#)**

Finally, we invite you to join our *ZOOM meeting* with Canadian author [Cheryl Bristow](#). For more details, click on Bristow.

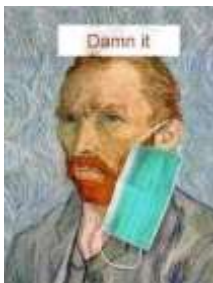
**Registration**

To register for the event and to receive the meeting ID and password, send an email to us at [richard@szpin.ca](mailto:richard@szpin.ca)



There you have it, mid summer, hot, humid and heat records. July has had just 5 days with temperatures below 30C. Watch out for August. The CNE is going to be torrid!

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay distanced.



Best,

***Richard***