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GAIL BOWEN

JULY 2018

BY ELIZABETH SEITZ

Biographical Sketch: Gail Dianne Bowen was born in Toronto. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto in 1964 and her Masters of Arts from the University of Waterloo in 1975, she undertook graduate research at the University of Saskatchewan.

Bowen was a lecturer in English at the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College in Saskatoon. In 1979 she and her family moved to Regina where she once more served as a lecturer, this time at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) and the University of Regina. In 1986 she was appointed assistant professor of English at SIFC (now the First Nations University of Canada), and was Chair of the English Department for six years.

The first six books in the Joanne Kilbourn series (about a widowed mother, political analyst and university professor who finds herself occasionally involved in criminal investigations in various parts of Saskatchewan) include *Deadly Appearances* (1990); *Murder at the Mendel* (1991); *The Wandering Soul Murders* (1992); *A Colder Kind of Death* (1994), winner of the Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Award; *A Killing Spring* (1996) and *Verdict in Blood* (1998) have appeared as made-for-television movies with world-wide distribution. *Burying Ariel* (2000); *The Glass Coffin* (2002); *The Last Good Day* (2004); *The Endless Knot* (2006) *The Brutal Heart* (2008), *The Nesting Dolls* (2010) and *Kaleidoscope* (2012) have met with critical and commercial success and many have been adapted as Canadian television movies by Shaftesbury Films. In June 2008, *Reader's Digest* named Bowen 'Canada's Best Mystery Novelist'. Bowen's 14th book in the Joanne Kilbourn series, *The Gifted* was published in 2013, number 15, *12 Rose Street* was published in 2015 and *What's Left Behind*, the 16th in the series, was published in 2016.

The series continued with *The Winners' Circle* in 2017 and *A Darkness of the Heart* in 2018. *Sleuth: Gail Bowen on Writing Mysteries* was published by University of Regina Press in 2018.

Bowen's short story *The King of Charles Street West*, which appeared in *Toronto Noir* (2008) published by Akashic Books, New York, was singled out for special praise by *Publishers' Weekly*.

Bowen has had four plays produced at Regina's Globe Theatre – *Dancing in Poppies* (1993) which was presented in a special performance for Prince Edward, *Beauty and the Beast* (1993); *The Tree* (1994) and an adaptation of *Peter Pan* (1997). Manitoba Theatre for Young People chose *Peter Pan* as its 2000 and 2013 Christmas production. The Grand Theatre in London, Ontario presented *Dancing in Poppies* in 2002 and *Peter Pan* in 2003.

Bowen's adaptation of *Doctor Doolittle* was broadcast on CBC's Showcase in April 2006, and the University of Regina produced a theatrical version of the play simultaneously. *Saving Lonesome George*, Bowen's original play about the last of the Galapagos tortoises, was produced by Persephone Theatre in 2008 and was produced by Carousel Players in 2009/10.

Bowen's radio play *The Word According to Charlie D.* was broadcast on CBC's Showcase in October 2006. Her *Long Time Listener/First Time Caller* was CBC's World Play for 2008 and rebroadcast on CBC in May 2009. To date, Orca Book Publishing has published 4 *Charlie D* novellas: *The World According to Charlie D* became *Love you to Death*; *Long Time Listener* became *One Fine Day You're Gonna Die* and the two original Charlie D plays: *The Shadow Catcher* and *The Thirteenth Rose*.

Bowen was Writer in Residence for the Toronto Reference Library in May and June of 2009 and she has written the introduction to "Essays on Canadian Detective Fiction" that will be published by Wilfred Laurier Press in 2009. She was a mentor at the SFU Mystery Writers Retreat on Salt Spring Island in June 2010. In 2013 Gail became the Writer in Residence at the Regina Public Library.

Bowen's short story *The Foad Toad* was published in the University of Regina's *University Affairs* publication in 2010.

Bowen has won the Crime Writers of Canada's Arthur Ellis Award for Best Novel, 1995, for *A Colder Kind of Death* and was named Canada's Best Mystery Novelist by *Reader's Digest*, 2008. In 2014 she was awarded the

Distinguished Canadian Award from the University of Regina and the Lifelong Learning Centre and in 2018 she was awarded the Crime Writers of Canada Grand Master Award and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

Edited by E. Seitz with
information from Gail Bowen, 2018

Scope and Content: This collection is comprised of approximately 23 centimetres of material related to the professional activities and writing by Gail Bowen, it ranges predominantly in date from 2003 to 2018.

Custodial History: This material was delivered to the Archives and Special Collections in July 2018.

Legal Agreement: The donor agreement is pending.

Future Accruals: Future accruals are expected.

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions to material in this collection.

Related Accessions: Related accessions may be found in 95-4 and 98-50, 2001-11, 2002-44, 2003-15, 2006-10, 2007-21, 2009-8, 2011-1, 2012-4, 2013-3, 2014-5, 2014-62, 2015-57, 2017-15 and 2017-48.

Note on Arrangement: Newspaper clippings were photocopied for preservation purposes.

	Awards	
Box 1	1 Crime Writers of Canada Grand Master Award	2018
	2 Readers Digest Canada's 30 Best (Plaque) (Crime writers category)	June 2008
	3 Saskatchewan Order of Merit	2018
	Finances	
	4 Canada Council for the Arts Registration Summary Public Lending Rights	2018
	5 Penguin Random House Canada	
	Miscellaneous	
	6 Clippings of Interest	
	Professional Activities	
	7 Arts and Letter Club	n.d.
	8 Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English	2018
	9 Canadian Club	March 2018
	10 Festival of Words	2018
	11 New York Journal of Books Application Form and review material	2018
	12 Stanley, Kristina <i>Avalanche</i> blurb for book	August 2016
	13 University of Regina, English Department	March 2018
	14 University of Regina, Lifelong Learning	November 2013
	15 University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies	2018
	Publicity	
	16 Article by Ashley Martin, <i>Leader Post</i>	May 19, 2008
	17 <i>Dancing in Poppies</i> – Palace Theatre poster and program, 2017/18 season	
	18 <i>Fine Lifestyle</i> , Fall 2014, Volume 6, Issue 3 (page 46)	
	19 <i>Freelance</i> , August – September 2016, Volume 46, No. 5 (page 15)	
	20 Joanne Kilbourn Mystery Series	n.d.
	21 <i>Junction Review</i> clipping	March 2018
	22 <i>Leader Post</i> – QC Section	2015, 2017
	23 Planet S – interview with Emmet Matheson	n.d.
	24 <i>Prairie Dog</i> (cover and page 8)	April 12-15, 2018
	25 Read Saskatchewan	[2017]
	Writing by Gail Bowen	
	<i>A Darkness of the Heart</i> 2018	
	26 Gail's copy for review	February 9, 2018
	27 Printed February 23, 2018	
	28 Proofreaders set	February 23, 2018
	29 Schedule - From Copy Editing to Books on Sale (January to August)	2018
	<i>Kaleidoscope</i>	
Box 2	30 Marjorie's Notes – August 9, 2011	

Life Itself (former title *Shifting Pictures*)

31	Chapters 1 to 3 printed December 22, 2017	
32	Chapter 5	n.d.
33	Draft Chapters 1 and 2	n.d.
34	Draft printed January 7, 2018	
35	Draft printed February 12, 2018	
36	Notes for possibilities	October / November 2017

Peter Pan

37	Grand Theatre, revised script n.d.	July 2003
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Shifting Pictures (title becomes *Life Itself*)

38	Draft 2 of first seven chapters	February 25, 2018
39	Draft Chapter 7	n.d.
40	Draft Chapter 8	
41	Draft Chapters 16 and 17	n.d.
42	Draft Printed February 14, 2018	
43	Draft with Buz Walsh's Schedule	n.d.
44	Draft with note about Spring	n.d.
45	Note (Gail's Handwritten)	n.d.
46	Synopsis for next chapters – Chapter 8	n.d.

Sleuth

47	Possible blurbs for Book	n.d.
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