



Spotlight: Canadian Classics?

While Canada's oral history goes back a long, long time, the same cannot be said for our written history. Given that, it is still somewhat early to discuss Canadian literature in terms of what is classic, what should be considered canon.

Recently Judith Drinnin of the Book Cellar approached the Public Library staff (and others throughout the community) to give a list of our favourite Canadian books to be used in an instore display for Canada's 150th birthday.

While it was very difficult for me to keep my own contributions down to a manageable number, it would have been remiss of me not to mention Alistair Macleod's *No Great Mischief*, a beautiful east coast novel that explores the pros and cons of familial and cultural bonds. Or Margaret Laurence's *A Bird in the House* which contains perhaps the best Canadian short story ever written, "The Loons." And what about Mordecai Richler's *Barney's Version* with the most loveable old crank in Canadian literature? Of course, there are also so many wonderful northern authors that deserve to be included. Where would our country be without the brilliantly fearless Richard Van Camp?

I could go on. Instead, I encourage you this upcoming Canada Day to reread a favourite Canadian book. Who knows? In another 150 years, it might be considered a classic.

John Mutford

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