



Narrative readings in ecohealth

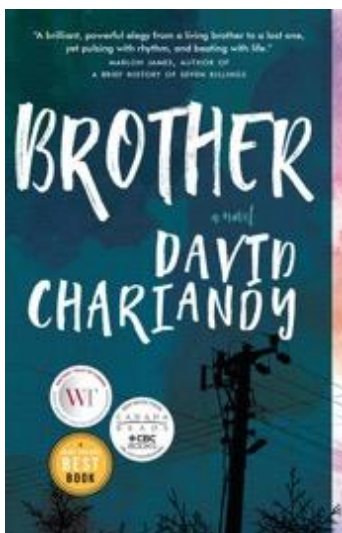
One of the principles, or patterns, of Ecosystem Approaches to Health is transdisciplinarity, the process of inviting different ways of thinking into our lives and work.

In light of this, we are inviting participants in the CoPEH-Canada course and webinar series on ecohealth to engage with the narrative form, providing us new perspectives. We have pre-selected nine books - novels and poetry - for you to engage with beginning as soon as you can and throughout the course/webinar series. An important part of the full, for-credit course will be choosing at least ONE of these books.

These books all have to do, to greater and lesser extents, with the link between health and ecosystems or the course theme - Reciprocity. The place-based nature of the books, set in regions roughly around the three university sites, will reinforce the land-based learning that takes place in our field course and provide a taste of this to webinar participants taking the on-line only version.

During one of the later webinars we will host a "book club," in which you will be invited to join a room with other people who read the same book, to exchange what we have learned/reinforced through our readings. You will be asked to collectively choose which of the six ecohealth patterns the book best illustrates, with a quote, scene, character, etc. in support of this claim.

Books set in Ontario



[Brother](#)

By David Chariandy, 2017

Literary fiction

192 pages

During an unusually hot summer, a Trinidadian immigrant family living in Scarborough becomes victim to police violence. Years later, friends and family look to heal the hurt for the increasingly distraught mother.

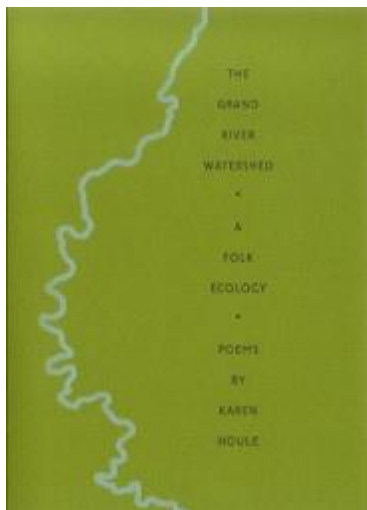
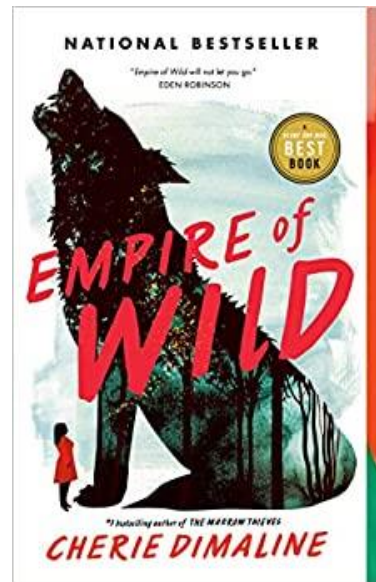
[Empire of Wild](#)

By Cherie Dimaline, 2019

Fantasy/thriller

300 pages

A dispute between Joan, a Métis, and her husband over whether to keep or sell her land along the Georgian Bay ends mysteriously and leads them both to play pivotal roles, for and against, in a scheme to win Native people over to resource development.



The Grand River Watershed: A Folk Ecology
by Karen Houle, 2019

Poetry

80 pages

"Overhead, the southbound geese are
triangulating,

ragged skylines read like expiration dates."

Books set in British Columbia

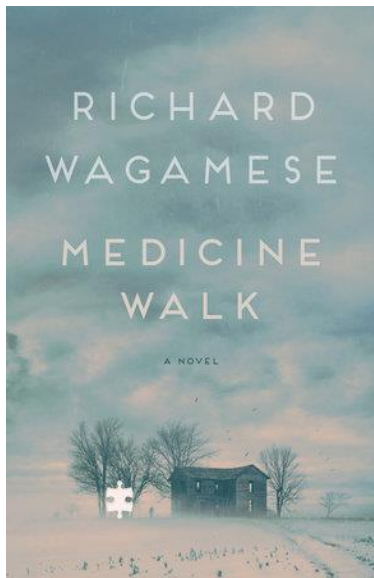
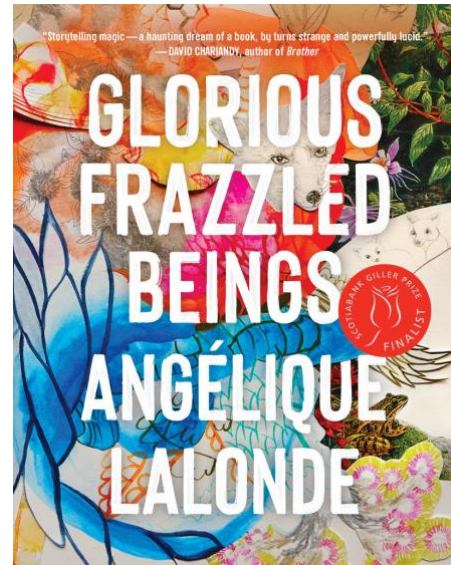
[Glorious Frazzled Beings](#)

by Angélique Lalonde, 2021

Short fiction

304 pages (*small format*)

This collection of short stories, written in the style of magical realism, reflects on how we have been estranged from the land and how rekindling our relationship with it as “home” can bring peace.



Medicine Walk

by Richard Wagamese, 2014

Literary fiction

245 pages

When his estranged father calls to say he is dying, Frank embarks on a journey through the Nechako Valley with him in which “the kid” faces painful truths while being nursed by the land.

[lot](#)

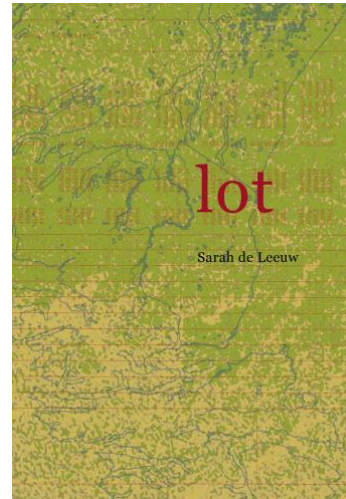
by Sarah de Leeuw, 2022

Poetry

169 pages

“Lot is about existing in relation to land and place.

Lot is about resilience and hope.”



[Books set in Québec](#)



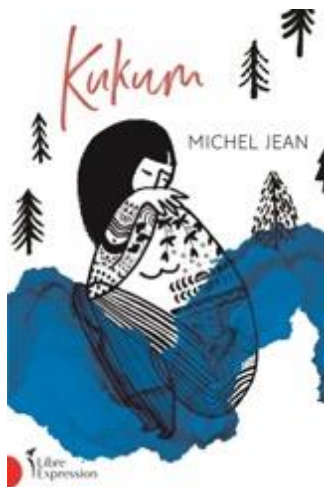
[Femme forêt](#)

by Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette, 2021

Literary fiction (French only)

287 pages (narrow pages)

Against the backdrop of a pandemic and lockdown, the narrator bears witness to burgeoning relationships with the natural, and sometimes slightly fantastical, environment.



[Kukum](#)

By Michel Jean, 2019
Literary fiction (French only)
218 pages

A grandmother (Kukum) reflects on the changes she has witnessed to her adoptive people's way of life - the Innu - brought about by forced settlement, and the toll these changes have had on their wellbeing.

[Blueberries and apricots](#)

by Natasha Kanapé Fontaine, 2018
Poetry
72 pages

“We will gather
the invisible wealth
lost between the cities
will chain up the monsters of history.”

