

## Books & Authors: Sapphire Blue

### Former London councillor Gord Hume publishes first novel

**G**ord Hume is one of those people who believes that retirement provides an ideal opportunity to learn new skills and to keep doing what you love.

An award-winning former broadcaster, entrepreneur, businessman and community leader, Hume was elected to London city council four times. He also served terms on the Board of Control, which council eventually scrapped. He chose not to run for office again in 2010.

Hume, who turned 69 this past October 26, isn't sitting idly by or retiring completely. As well as speaking internationally on improving the operation of municipal government and communities, he has been honing his skills as a writer.

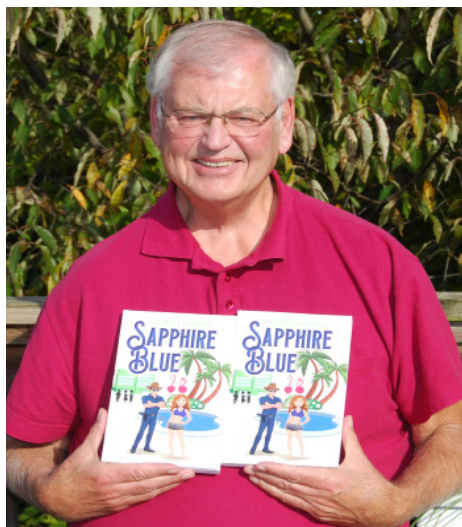
In the past 10 years he has written eight books - seven of them non-fiction about improving municipalities.

He is also the co-author of two more books that focus on building great communities and improving local government.

Hume has also kept busy travelling as a sought-after speaker at major conferences in the United States, Canada and Europe, Asia and New Zealand. He loves exploring the culture, cuisine and history of nations around the world.

His latest non-fiction book is *Getting Cities Right*, which Hume describes as "an intense exploration of the new challenges that governments will face in the years ahead.

"These range from inno-



**Gord Hume**, a former London city councillor and board of control member, has written seven non-fiction books and his first novel called *Sapphire Blue*, which is set in Florida. — Ages Photo

vative technologies to demographic shifts to changing how local governments are financed. It is also a powerful and compelling look at today's unique political climate."

His publisher, Burnstown Publishing House of Burnstown, Ontario, says the non-fiction books are in more than 22 countries around the world.

His latest book and first novel, *Sapphire Blue*, came out this year. He describes it as "a fun and funny look at life in Florida. It's a rom-com (romantic comedy), has an interesting murder, lots of amusing commentary about life in a beach-side condo complex, and — perhaps not surprisingly, given my background — corruption in city hall.

"It's satire. It's light-hearted," Hume said in an interview.

"I don't plumb the depth of people's souls".

Hume said he wrote his first novel at age 11 ("It was terrible.") During the past 10 years in particular, he has been focusing on his writing, resulting in a prodigious output of eight books to date.

"I love the intellectual challenge and creating. I really enjoyed writing it (his first published novel)".

*Sapphire Blue* is an upscale beach-front condo complex on Florida's sunny Gulf of Mexico. Hume has been spending his winters in Florida for the past four years, and two years ago bought a condo in the small community of St. Pete, about 10 miles from St. Petersburg on Florida's Gulf of Mexico coast.

While living in Florida for up to five months each winter, Hume has soaked up more than the warm sun. It has provided him with the people, sights and activities and, perhaps, some scuttlebutt.

It was all grist for his computer as he tapped out the story about the people living in the Sapphire Blue condos in the fictional Port Manatee overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.

Now that his first novel is out, he says readers can expect a sequel, called *Alligator Alley*.

With the success of *Sapphire Blue* to date, the sequel should be right up his alley.

— Pat Moauro