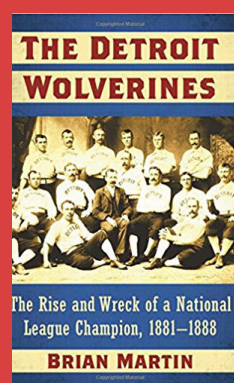
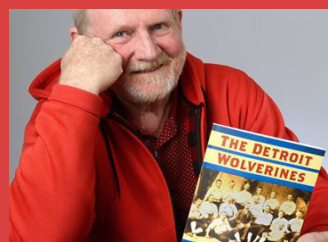
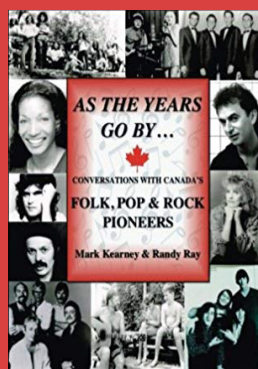
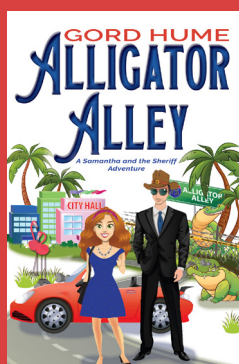
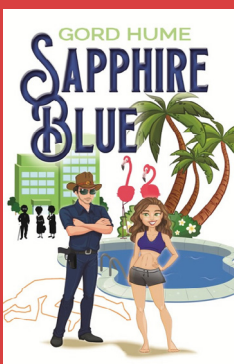
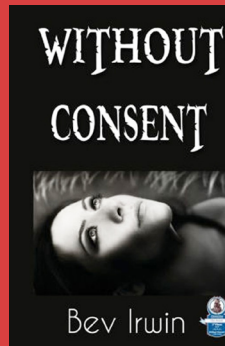
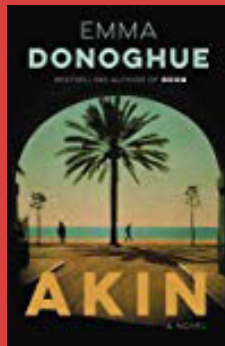


Aging Well

Celebrating the Young at Heart

September 2019

The Write Stuff: Writers & Writing



Gord Hume adds non-fiction, fiction writing to his 'resume'

BY PAT MOAURO

Broadcaster, radio station manager and President, newspaper publisher, speaker, world traveller and London city councillor. Now Londoner **Gord Hume** has added writer and novelist to his "re-sume." Although officially "retired," Hume has written seven non-fiction books and his first two novels.

The first one, *"Sapphire Blue"*, came out in late 2018. A sequel, *Alligator Alley*, has just been released and currently being introduced to the public. A second sequel, *Martinis & Manicures!* is in the works.

As well as author of seven non-fiction books, he is co-author of two more books that focus on building great communities and improving local government. The books are in more than 22 countries around the world. His latest non-fiction book is *"Getting Cities Right"*, an intense exploration of the new challenges that governments will face in the future.

"After a successful career in business and as an entrepreneur, I entered the world of local government and was elected to London City Council in 1997," Hume said.

He was elected four times before deciding to retire from public life in 2010 "so I could focus on my writing and speaking about government issues and community opportunities."

He speaks to municipalities and community organizations at conferences and civic events across Canada and around the world. His speaking engagements have taken him across Canada and into the United States, Europe, Asia, New Zealand and Australia.

He started his career in broadcasting, later moving into the newspaper indus-



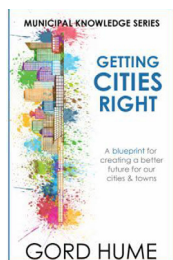
Gord Hume

try. He was General Manager of "some great radio stations (and) President of two broadcasting companies..."

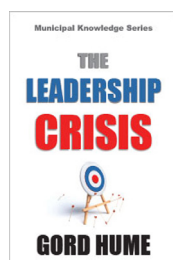
In 2002 he was the founding Publisher of *The Londoner*, which became Canada's largest independent community newspaper. He now also edits PERSPECTIVES magazine, a publication for municipal officials and others.

In recent years, Hume and good friend **Carol Stephenson** have been spending the winters on Florida's Gulf Coast. Ms. Stephenson served as Dean of the Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario (now Western University) from 2003 until her retirement in 2013.

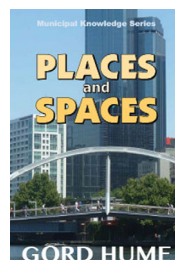
As well as soaking up the balmy Florida sun,



GETTING
CITIES
RIGHT



THE
LEADERSHIP
CRISIS



PLACE
AND
SPACES



10 TRENDS
for SMARTER
COMMUNITIES



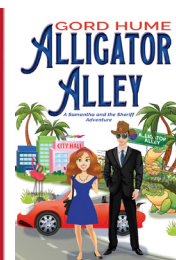
TAKING
BACK
OUR CITIES



THE LOCAL
FOOD
REVOLUTION



CULTURAL
PLANNING
for Creative
Communities



ALLIGATOR
ALLEY

Gord Hume launches second novel from page 17

Hume has absorbed the ambience and the lifestyle of beach-side condo dwellers in the St. Petersburg area. It has provided plenty of grist for his writer's mill.

In his first run at writing fiction, Hume came up with *Sapphire Blue*, the name of a fictionalized high-rise condo complex and its weird and wacky occupants.

The chapters in the latest 219-page book are short (an average of 1 1/2 pages) and a quick read. The dialogue is usually smart, snappy and funny.

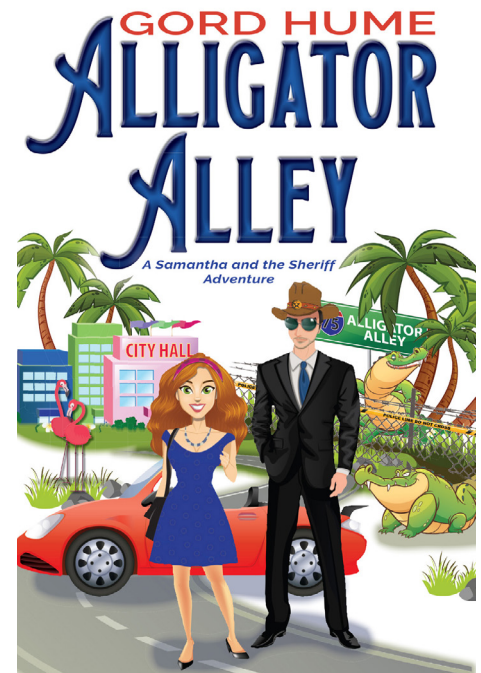
They include "the Wives Club", a group of catty women from the *Sapphire Blue* who gather around the pool and sling verbal jabs about the swim wear and the bodies of other women, and dish the latest dirt.

The book is "a spoof" and "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," Hume said.

He confides that while sitting around the pool at his Florida condo, he works on a crossword puzzle. He keeps his head down but all the while listens intently to the conversations of the women and men at poolside.

He jots down some notes, which may eventually find their way into his current series of novels about "Samantha and the Sheriff".

Of course, Hume's exten-



London writer **Gord Hume** has completed his first two novels: *Sapphire Blue*, which came out in late 2018, and a sequel, *Alligator Alley*, which was released last month. He can be reached at: gord@gordhume.com

sive experience in the media, business and municipal government all serve him well as he conjures up his fast-paced, funny stories about condo life along the Florida coast.

Sapphire Blue has already garnered some enthusiastic, generous praise from readers. Some typical comments:

"I couldn't put it down. I haven't laughed so hard in a long time."

"I loved it. I gave it to my mother. She absolutely loved it."

"What a great read. I really enjoyed it. I can't wait for the sequel."

The latest sequel, *Alligator Alley*, continues the adventures of "Samantha and the Sheriff".

This time, Hume turns up the heat — not only on the hot romance between Samantha, the red-haired divorced beauty, and the handsome sheriff, but on all kinds of skulduggery and machinations.

They include a vicious Cen-

tral American gang disposing of bodies in the gator-infested Everglades, and some dirty politics at city hall.

Alligator Alley is published by Burnstown Publishing House of Burnstown, just outside of Ottawa. The book, which retails for \$25, is available in London at Oxford Book Shop Ltd., 262 Piccadilly St. It's also available as an eBook at Amazon.ca.

Hume has travelled far along his life path since he first covered Saskatoon city hall as a young reporter in the late 1960s.

At 69, **Gord Hume** is enjoying another phase of his varied life — this time as a writer of humorous fiction.

Readers await his third instalment, *Martinis & Manicures!*, for more smiles and chuckles from sunny Florida.

With the Florida-based rom-com novels shaping up as a series, he just may have a "franchise" on his hands.