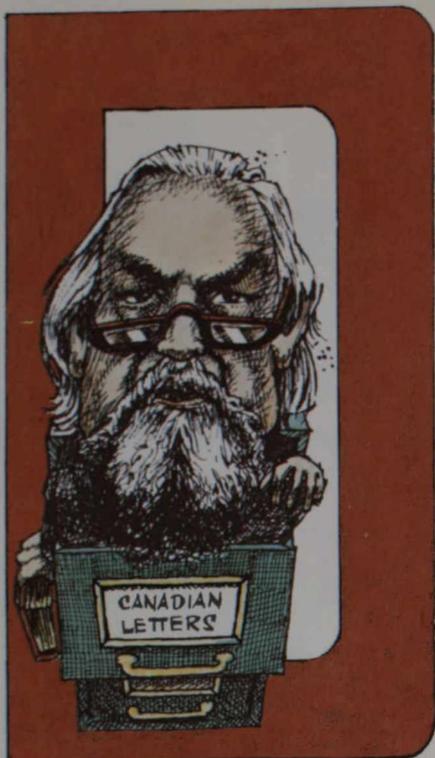


# ROBERTSON DAVIES



Robertson Davies is Canada's most illustrious literary man. He was born in Thamesville, Ontario, and he wrote his first published book of fiction in 1947. There are those who think he is the best novelist now writing in English. *Fifth Business*, considered his best

book to date, was the first in a splendid trilogy that included *The Manticore* and *World of Wonders*. Each of the three books triumphs as a mind-challenging perception of good and evil; as an essay on ambition, success, failure and futility, as a mystery story; as an evocation of small-town Canada and other places; and as a richly-textured old fashioned novel.

### Mal de raquette

The pain caused by excessive use of the snowshoe is called *mal de raquette* in Quebec and snowshoe evil, snowshoe fever, snowshoe lameness or snowshoe sickness elsewhere. It gets you in the muscles and the joints.

### Fishocracy

"Fishocracy" was a not very friendly name for the Newfoundland gentry who refused to join the Canadian Confederation in 1867. Their descendants finally gave in in 1949.

### The Great Ice Road

Canada has the world's most generous supply of fresh and salt water and therefore the most generous supply of fresh and sea ice. In the far north, ice is winter's essential ingredient, providing homes for Inuit hunters and swift passage for sleighs and snowmobiles. A three-hundred-mile ice road is surveyed and packed down across the Northwest Territories each year, south to north, from Yellowknife to Great Bear Lake and the Arctic Circle, and tractors pull freight trains carrying hundreds of tons of supplies, including whole fabricated buildings, to the silver mine at Fort Radium.

### Saints and Sinners

"The fascination of the Saint is the fascination of the extraordinary person, the remarkable person, the outstanding person. People are also very quickly interested in criminals. Criminals are extraordinary people. You have to be very unusual to be a distinguished criminal. But it takes just as many extraordinary qualities to be unusually good."

Robertson Davies

### The Donnellys

In 1880 protestant Irish settlers near London, Ontario, murdered five members of the Irish Catholic Donnelly family. Altogether twenty persons died in the feud. James Reaney wrote a trilogy of plays, *The Donnellys*, which were produced to acclaim in the mid-1970s.



### Energy Saver

The Banks residence in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, is believed to be more than 250 years old. It has two roofs, eighteen inches apart, packed with clay for insulation.

## DÉCEMBRE

## 1980

## DECEMBER

D	L	M	M	J	V	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				JOUR DE NOËL CHRISTMAS	JOUR APRES NOËL BOXING DAY	
28	29	30	31			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S