



Stéphane Poulin is delighting children around the world with tales of a young boy and his mischievous cat.

foreign editions have been published in Britain, France, Germany and Holland.

William Kurelek is perhaps best known as one of Canada's most important painters. Influenced by Bosch and Brueghel and by his prairie roots, his Ukrainian heritage and Roman Catholicism, Kurelek's realistic and symbolic paintings record his historic culture and religious vision. Indeed Kurelek's children's books truly come alive with his full-colour paintings.

Roch Carrier

Roch Carrier is one of French Canada's best-known writers as well as one of its funniest.

His only children's story to date, *The Hockey Sweater*, has become a classic and continues to delight young

and old alike. Since its first publication in 1984, some 35 000 copies have sold. The story and accompanying illustrations by fellow Montrealer Sheldon Cohen have combined to win the Communication-Jeunesse Children's Jury Award, 1984; the American Institute of Graphic Arts Certificate of Excellence, 1985; and the "Our Choice" Children's Book Centre Award, 1985.

Originally published in French, *Le Chandail de Hockey* was made into an animated film by Sheldon Cohen for the National Film Board of Canada. The "short" won the British Academy Award in 1981; the Silver medal in Salerno, Italy; the Ruby Slipper in Los Angeles; the Red Ribbon at the American Film Festival in New York; plus six other international awards.

A second Roch Carrier children's book is due for release this year. Tentatively entitled *The Champion*, it is in Carrier's own words: "dedicated to all the girls and boys because all of them are champions."

Stéphane Poulin

In the forefront of French Canadian writers/illustrators is Stéphane Poulin. Already very successful at 26, Poulin first distinguished himself two years ago as artist/illustrator of the bilingual ABC picture book set in Montreal — *Ah! Belle Cité! A Beautiful City* (1985). Last year, he unveiled his story-telling talents with *Have You Seen Josephine?*, originally published in French. It is a charming, amusing account of the little boy Daniel and his mischievous cat Josephine. Already translated into English and in its third printing, it tells the story of their games and travels through Montreal's colourful east end.

Poulin's list of achievements is indeed an impressive one, particularly given his young age. He was scarcely out of

art school when he won the top professional award of Communication-Jeunesse in competition with Quebec's leading illustrators for children. In two days in 1986, Poulin's *Ah! Belle Cité!* canvases sold out during a solo exhibition at Montreal's prestigious Galerie d'Art français — an incredible feat for a 24-year-old artist. And in both 1986 and 1987, Poulin won the Canada Council Children's Literature Prize for illustration.

In the fall of 1987, a second Josephine book, *Can You Catch Josephine?*, was published and a third was released in the fall — *Could You Stop Josephine?* Both were in French and English.

Ann Blades

At the age of 19, Ann Blades left Vancouver with her husband to teach at Mile 18, a small Mennonite community about 115 km north of Vancouver on the Alaska Highway. As the children there had no books about them or their way of life, Ann Blades decided to write one. She taught herself to paint in order to illustrate her story and used a little girl named Mary as a model. The result was *Mary of Mile 18*, first published in 1971.

The story became an overnight sensation and has remained popular ever since. It has garnered many awards, including the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians Book of the Year, 1972; the Look of Books Design Award, 1972; and the Toronto Public Libraries Top 100 Books Award, 1972.

Mary of Mile 18 has been translated into Danish, Swedish and German and has been published in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Ann Blades, who no longer teaches, is now a registered nurse and lives in Vancouver where she continues to write and paint.

Kathy Stinson

Following the birth of her second child, Kathy Stinson left her teaching position to become a full-time mother — an experience which brought her in touch with children's books in a way that teaching had not. "Some of the books were good, but some of them were so nothing that I couldn't believe that I couldn't do better," Stinson explains. So in 1981 she enrolled in a "how to write and get published" course and turned to the Canadian Children's Book Centre for guidance.

Stinson's first two manuscripts, *Red is Best* and *Big or Little*, were both accepted by Annick Press of Toronto for publication in 1982 and 1983. *Red is Best* — the story of a small girl who prefers to wear or use red things even though the same or "superior" items are available in other colours — won the Canadian Children's Book Centre "Our Choice" award and the International Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE) Children's Book Award.

In addition, the book has been translated into French, for both Canada and France, and also into German, Dutch, Swedish, Danish, Finnish and Spanish.

Since 1982, Kathy Stinson has published five more books, two of which have been translated into French. All have been award winners.

Established as one of Canada's premier authors of books for preschoolers, Stinson has recently decided to try her hand at writing for an older audience. This has proved to be a challenge. Says Stinson: "It's like starting to write all over again. In the beginning of my career it was, 'Maybe I can do this,' and now it's like that again. I hope I can do it because I'm having such a good time . . ."

So are her readers!