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Out of Muskoka **A memoir by** **James Bartleman**

In February 1999, Canadian High Commissioner to South Africa James Bartleman had come to Cape Town for what he expected to be a memorable event: retiring President Nelson Mandela's farewell address to the country's legislature. What awaited him was an unforgettable experience of a different kind: hours before the speech, he was viciously mugged in his hotel room. The assault unleashed flashbacks to the discrimination he and his Aboriginal family had faced during his childhood in Ontario's Muskoka District.

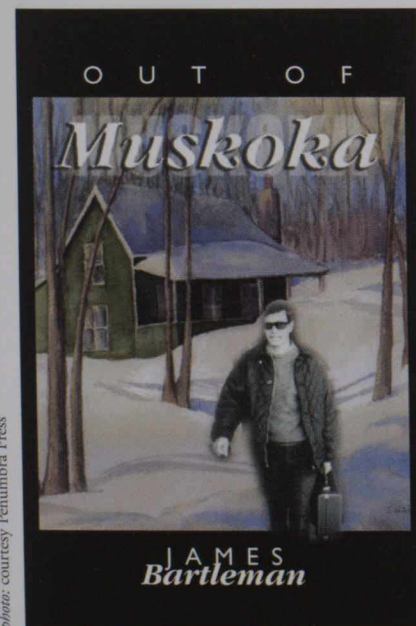


photo: courtesy Penumbra Press

To help work through his post-traumatic stress and depression, Mr. Bartleman decided to write down his recollections. The result is a compelling memoir entitled *Out of Muskoka*. In it Mr. Bartleman reflects on the unenlightened attitudes of the past, plus his more than 35 years in the Canadian Foreign Service.

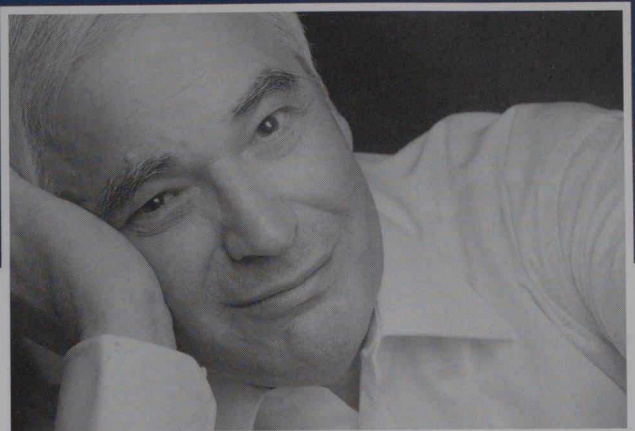
Identity isn't given once and for all; it is built up and changes throughout a person's lifetime.

Lebanese-French novelist Amin Maalouf

The son of a Scottish father and an Aboriginal mother, James Bartleman was born in 1939 in Orillia, Ontario. A member of the Mnjikaning First Nation, he grew up in an abandoned shack in the Muskoka town of Port Carling. The support of a wealthy American benefactor changed his life, enabling him to get an education. In 1963 he earned a B.A. with honours in history from the University of Western Ontario. After travelling in Europe, he joined the Canadian Foreign Service.

In 1972, Mr. Bartleman opened Canada's first diplomatic mission to the newly independent People's Republic of Bangladesh. He went on to serve in progressively more senior posts, including High Commissioner to Cyprus, Australia and South Africa, as well as Ambassador to Israel, Cuba, the North Atlantic Council of NATO and the European Union (see interview in *Canada World View*, Issue 12, pp. 4-5).

photo: Philippe Landreville



James Bartleman

Out of Muskoka is the story of a man who had a highly successful diplomatic career, was posted around the world and met some of the most charismatic leaders of our time. But this is also the journey of a person of mixed heritage who overcame poverty and racial discrimination to reach the highest levels of public service. Here in Canada, from 1994 to 1998 James Bartleman served as Foreign Policy Adviser to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Foreign and Defence Policy. In 2002 he was named Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Writing this memoir enabled Mr. Bartleman to finally reconcile the two parts of his being—Aboriginal and white—and to come to terms with the discrimination he had suffered in the past.

The book includes an afterword by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gaëtan Lavertu. Proceeds from its sale will benefit the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, a charity that has provided over \$14 million in scholarships to young Aboriginal students.

James Bartleman, *Out of Muskoka*.
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