

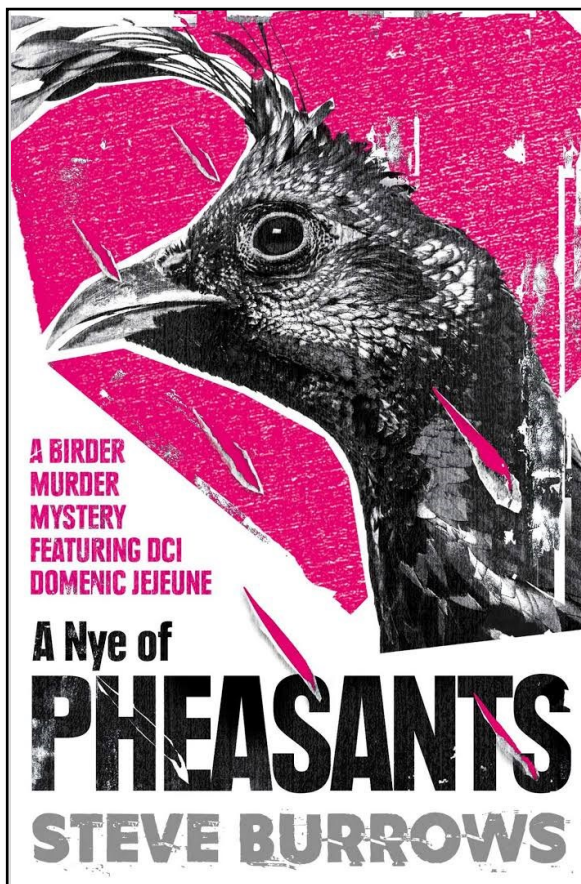
Prince Edward Bird Observatory Hosts Launch of Steve Burrows' New Birder Murder Mystery, Saturday, May 18

By JC Sulkenko

Steve Burrows brings his unique blend of birding and murder to South Marysburgh for the County launch of his eighth book in the 'Birder Murder' series, *A Nye of Pheasants*.

"The Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) is delighted to celebrate the North American release of Steve's new mystery," says Julie White, President of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory. "Who can resist a detective whose passions for solving crimes and for birds compete in each novel!"

Reviews already signal this new book as a 'must-read' in a series which has brought Burrows awards and accolades. Here's a Kirkus starred comment: "Skillfully written, full of moral ambiguities and artful



puzzles, with a spine-tingling final sentence."

Oshawa-based Burrows – environmental journalist, avid birder, and world traveller—began writing about DCI Domenic Jejeune in 2012 after discovering stories that didn't quite align with his professional writing agenda. He thought he'd try a mystery on the side, which then led to publishing

deals in Canada and the UK. Book 9 will be ready for release in 2025. "I feel exceptionally fortunate to have been in the right place at the right time," he admits.

Co-producers Shaftesbury Films in Canada (*Murdoch Mysteries*) and Company Pictures (*Inspector George Gently*) in the UK have this Burrows' series under active consideration.

Steve situates his stories in a mythical English village. As part of his research, he visits areas to soak up local language, anecdotes, and topography, so as to lend authenticity to each plot.

In his view, all detectives need an idiosyncrasy, a particularity. He made his hero, Jejeune, Canadian because he wanted a strong Canadian presence in the stories. Steve made him a birder so that he could write about what he

knows. Steve was an avid birder in his teens and returned to birdwatching as he travelled.

He believes birding and crime detection share common skillsets. "Important to both is the ability to observe a situation, not dive right in. Both excel at paying attention to detail, such as to plumage or appearance,

and to behaviour. Often, there's just a flash of a bird seen. Perhaps there might be enough to determine what species flew by. But to reach a conclusion means gathering more information and adding up the clues."

"In a murder mystery, you have to grab the reader's attention as soon as possible. I strive for a balance between good storytelling and good writing craft. I also want the series to have a lightness to it. I mean the stories to entertain first and foremost." The books can be read independently of one another.

This fundraiser for PEPtBO on Saturday, May 18 begins at 2:30 PM at South Bay United Church, 2029 County Road 13. The event features Steve reading from *A Nye of Pheasants*, a discussion with Lynn Pickering (*The County Writes...The County Reads*), and time for Q&As
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