

F, les fleurs.

“Fondée par le frère Marie-Victorin, le jardin botanique de Montréal s’étend sur 180 acres. On y retrouve plus de 15 000 variétés de plantes qui poussent dans les jardins extérieurs et dans les serres.”

Les Montréalais, grands ou petits auront beaucoup de plaisir à feuilleter cet album afin de redécouvrir leur ville. J’imagine maintenant un abécédaire aux couleurs des différentes régions du Québec...un abécédaire chaleureux comme le vieux Québec... (fig. 1)

Solange Boudreau est enseignante à la commission scolaire de la Pointe-Lévy au Québec.

FOR HOCKEY FANS

Scrubs on skates, Boy on defence, A boy at the Leafs’ Camp, Scott Young. McClelland & Stewart, 1985. 233, 246, 244 pp. \$3.95 paper. ISBN 0-7710-9088-9, 0-7710-9089-7, 0-7710-9090-0.

Every young boy has a dream of what he would like to be. For boys growing up in Canada, that vision often takes the form of someday being a professional hockey player. Scott Young, in the trilogy *Scrubs on skates, Boy on defence, and A boy at the Leafs’ Camp*, describes the on and off ice events that lead to the fulfillment of the dream of professional hockey and of becoming a man.

The first book, *Scrubs on skates*, primarily deals with the character of Pete Gordon. Circumstances force Pete to attend a new high school and play for their team. An accomplished player, Pete does not adjust well to his new hockey team and his early play is dull and listless. His attitude changes however, largely due to the inspiring hard work and spirit of his teammates, including Bill Spunaska, a Polish immigrant just learning the game of hockey. Pete and his teammates rebound from their early poor play and progress to the league finals where they are narrowly defeated.

The second book, *Boy on defence*, centers on Bill Spunaska. He is now a valuable member of the Northwest high school hockey team. Spunaska and his family experience financial hardship. These troubles are paralleled by teams’ internal dissension and subsequent losing streak. Both recover and the team goes on to capture the provincial championship in the action filled final game.

A boy at the Leafs' Camp, the final book, outlines the journey from adolescent high school hockey player to professional for Bill Spunska. Spunska, through his exposure to the world of pro hockey, learns that it is not just ability that makes a man a professional but a certain degree of responsibility and maturity also. Although Spunska is unsuccessful in his attempt to make the team he gains valuable insight into the game and himself.

Scott Young's three books teach the reader lessons in the merits of team, work and diligence. Using the sport of hockey as a background, the author proves the value of working together toward a common objective.

The plots of the books have been updated since original publication in the 1950s. Scott Young has effectively captured the speed and grace of hockey. For the young aspiring professional hockey player he provides very enjoyable and exciting reading.

John Montgomery grew up in a small Northern Ontario community just outside Sudbury and took an Honours Degree in Arts at Laurentian University. He is an avid sports participant, with interests in hockey, baseball, and football.

WHEN THE TRUTH IS GOOD ENOUGH

Flip the dolphin saves the day, Slip the otter finds a home, Olena Caisson. Illus. author. Greey de Pencier, 1984. Unpaginated. 24 pp., \$2.00 ISBN 0-919872-91-3, 0-919872-90-5; *The kids' cat book, The kids' dog book*, Laima Dingwall and Annabel Slaight. Greey de Pencier, 1984. 96 pp. paper \$6.95. ISBN 0-919872-88-3, 0-919872-89-1.

In 1984 OWL Magazine co-published several books with Western Publishing, famous for the little Gold Books sold on racks in the supermarket. Two of the first books, *Slip the otter finds a home* and *Flip the dolphin saves the day*, are attractive, entertaining little books. Unfortunately, they present scenes which have little to do with the real lives of otters and dolphins and could help to establish erroneous notions in the minds of readers.

Not every book with an animal protagonist has to be realistic. Few people would object to the cozy box home of Maryann Kovalski's Brenda and Edward or the wacky antics of Mark Thurman's alligator and elephant pals. Talking animals in clothes can be utterly delightful. It is in the twilight area approaching realism that an author must be true to the