

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New biographical novel tells an important Canadian story of love and race

TORONTO, June 14, 2023 – Yorkland Publishing today announced the launch of Sheila White’s debut biographical novel, *The Letters: Postmark Prejudice in Black and White*, a riveting account of the challenges the author’s white mother and Black father faced during their turbulent and tender courtship immediately following the Second World War.

Jack Lakey, former Toronto Star city hall reporter and Fixer columnist, calls *The Letters* “a fascinating read, particularly for those who don’t recognize the contributions of people like Sheila White’s parents to a more egalitarian society today.”

Bev Salmon, a decorated community leader and former Toronto municipal politician, says “Sheila has brilliantly woven a beautiful tapestry of the letters, historical fact and fiction in her parents’ love story.”

The launch of *The Letters* will be celebrated in Toronto on July 18, 2023 at 18 Wynford Drive, Suite 102.

“You’ll enjoy Sheila’s dynamic personality, learn the uplifting back story to her remarkable family tale of love and triumph, and hear her read from *The Letters*,” says Rosemary Shiller, the book’s editor and Yorkland Publishing’s editorial director.

The book launch will also feature a unique display of rare photos, a diary, artifacts and correspondence from the period, including the actual letters.

For more information about *The Letters*, visit the Yorkland Publishing website (www.yorklandpublishing.com).

Set in Dartmouth, Halifax and Toronto, *The Letters* is the story of a love that transcended deeply rooted taboos and sparked an orchestrated letter-writing campaign to persuade the author’s mother “not to marry outside her race.”

“The overt racism of that letter-writing campaign illustrates by way of contrast how far we have come. But the current resurgence of white supremacy, the attacks on the LGBTQ+ community and other forms of bigotry send a stark warning that we must never be complacent,” says White.

“As I reflect on this year’s approaching Juneteenth, I am reminded that the struggle for social justice never ends, that whatever progress my parents and other have made can only be sustained through constant vigilance and that complacency invites regression.”

Vivian Keeler was a young, intelligent and determined white woman from a traditional Nova Scotian family who fell in love with a Black man. Truro-born Billy White was a charismatic and gifted member of a prominent Black family – brother of celebrated classical singer Portia White and the son of a renowned minister, Rev. Capt. Dr. William Andrew White, a Maritime hero who garnered fame as an officer during the First World War.

Along the journey through *The Letters*, the reader will encounter numerous luminaries – among them, Portia White, cinema icon Sydney Poitier, internationally acclaimed and controversial singer and actor Paul Robeson, and David Lewis, a key architect of the C.C.F., forerunner of the New Democratic Party.

The Letters is available directly from the publisher at www.yorklandpublishing.com, also online from Amazon, Indigo and Barnes & Noble and through local bookstores.

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