

teaching journalism with the Radio and Television Broadcasting program at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC). From 1987 to 1989, I was a student in his classroom. While at NSCC, he completed a Master's in Adult Education. MacDermott finished his academic career as the NSCC Akerley Campus Principal, and was made principal of the new Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth while it was under construction. Retirement gave him time to write.

"The book took two years to complete, so it was a somewhat lazy process for me."

MacDermott's wrote his first draft by hand, crafting and rearranging paragraphs, and chapters before handing them off to his wife to type and do the initial edits.

"The story began in my head a long time ago; age 66 is a little late to get started, but I have always had a creative mind. I paint, and I used to think I'd like to be a painter, but I know I'm a better writer."

In his novel, MacDermott marries the two mediums seamlessly, painting beautiful scenery with words. The story follows a former RCMP officer named McKinley, whose success in capturing bad guys comes back to haunt him after retirement.

"The book brings together a lot of

elements that are interesting to me. I remember seeing the big lumber camps, and I remember the rivers. The river in my novel isn't named. It's a combination of the Tobique and Miramichi. I remember Miller Canoes in Nictau, and the aboriginal people in the region. There's the escape of Allan Legere that had the province riveted, and the recent fracking protests. I've tried to hit all the buttons," laughs MacDermott.

Throughout the book, MacDermott is flawless in his ability transport you. He creates intimacy between the reader and the natural beauty of the places he and his father visited: riverbanks, tree stands, streams and old growth areas.

"You can smell it; you can hear the bugs, feel the heat of the woods. I think it has some ability to capture that for the reader. It also has a little bit of that past-era feel - the fishing and hunting lodges that were so big in that area, way back when. I worked hard to capture the feel and smell of the northern woods I remember as a boy."

MacDermott's father died in 2001 at the age of 83. His mother, now 92, still lives in New Glasgow.

"She's read it and she doesn't like the bad language in it, but she's pretty proud. My dad would have been, too. He was a woodsman, made axe handles, snowshoes, and baskets. As a boy, he had spent a

lot of time with an old aboriginal man named Frank Thomas near where he grew up in Rolling Dam. Dad loved to hunt, trap and fish. He was creative, too. I know he wrote a few stories about animals and wildlife. I saw them years ago. He was a big influence."

MacDermott says between his father's love of nature, and his mother's communication skills, writing a story felt very natural.

"My mother can tell a story, and decide at some point that she's going to branch off, and then she'll bring you back around, and she's not even thinking about it. She's just telling this story. She has this old Irish storytelling ability, and can just weave things together so well."

MacDermott says another book is now making its way onto paper. He's already penned 215 pages for the sequel to *Revenge River*.

"I spend far more time thinking about what I have to do than I ever do writing it down. Those characters become very real, so I know them all quite well. The second one is coming quite easily."

For more information on Graham MacDermott, you can visit his website: [www.grahammacdermott.com](http://www.grahammacdermott.com). *Revenge River* is available in paperback and as an e-book through Amazon, Chapters Indigo, Barnes & Noble, BookBaby, and Scribd.

