

# Shane Peacock

Could he be:

Canada's most prolific living author? - *Quite possibly*

Covering a wide variety of genre? - *Well, documentaries, novels, articles, plays...*

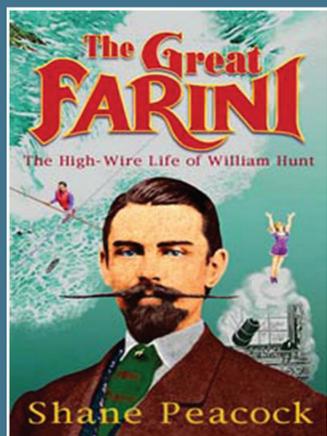
Born in a place that doesn't exist? (as he says) - *True, Port Arthur doesn't exist, anymore. And to top it off,*

Could he be:

**One of us? – Absolutely!** - Shane makes his home just north of Cobourg

Shane Peacock grew up with three brothers (**including Cobourg CEO Stephen**) in the town of Kapuskasing before attending Trent University (English & History) and the University of Toronto (Master's in Literature).

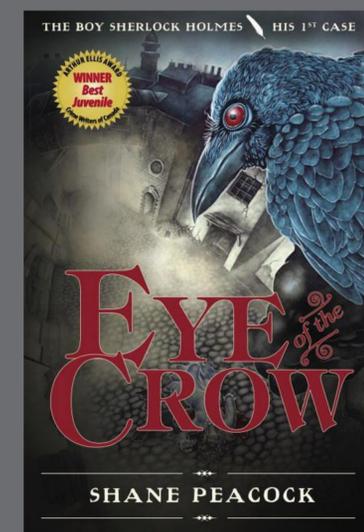
While working at his summer jobs in the Ontario wilderness or the university bookstore, Shane's mind was often not far from the literature which inspired him. **It was the larger-than-life characters he enjoyed** – real or imaginary – from the real life dare devil, the Great Farini, to the imaginary sleuth, Sherlock Holmes. And soon he was telling their stories, and his stories were being published.



Peacock is perhaps best known to adult readers for his detailed **biography of Port Hope's William Hunt (aka The Great Farini)**, but is widely known among younger readers for his series on the Boy Sherlock Holmes.



Aside from the mysteries the strange young boy solves, older readers delight in the biographical and geographical reference to the **people and places of old London**.

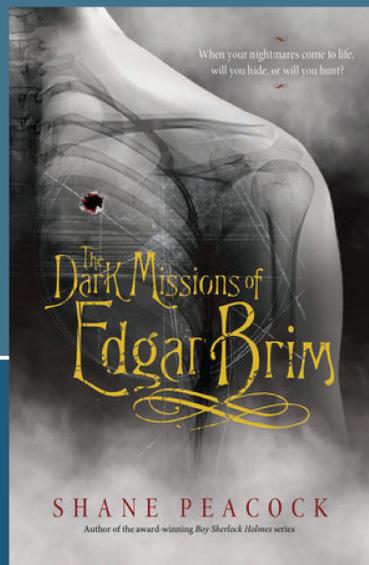


*As the sun climbs, its rays spread light through the lifting yellow fog, filtering down upon a brown, flowing mass of people: on top hats and bonnets, heavy clothes and boots swarming on bridges and along cobblestone streets. Hooves strike the pavement, clip-clopping over the rumbling iron wheels, the drone of the crowds, and hawkers' cries. The smell of horses, or refuse, of coal and gas, hangs in the air. Nearly everyone has somewhere to go on this late spring morning **in the year of Our Lord 1867.***

*Among those moving over the dirty River from the south, is a tall, thin youth with skin the pallor of the pale margins in The Times of London. He is thirteen and should be in school... His name is Sherlock Holmes.*

Opening lines from *The Eye of the Crow*

Peacock also has a series of four *Dylan Maples Adventure* novels, contributions to the *Seven Series*, and a new Gothic series underway, *The Edgar Brim Trilogy*, all for young adults.

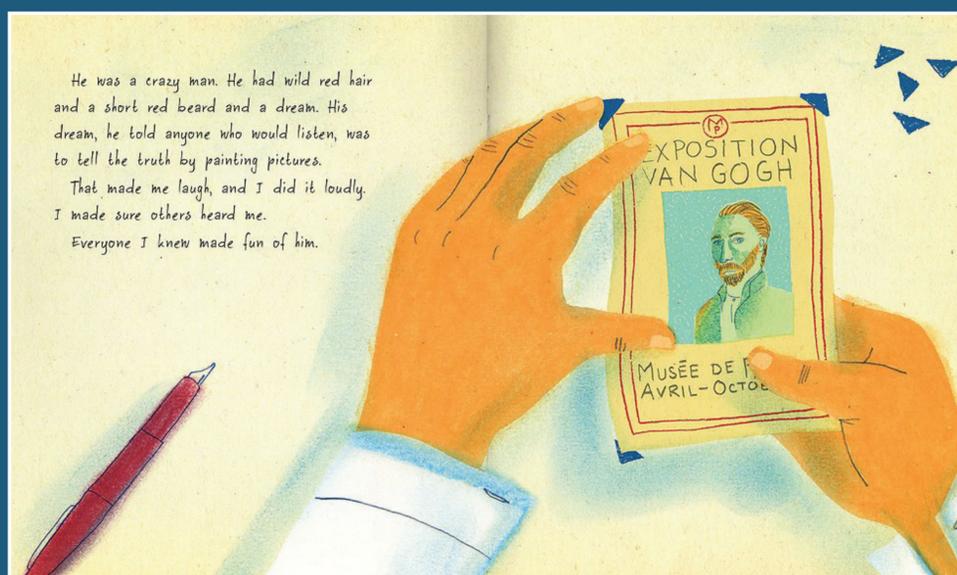


*The Dark Missions of Edgar Brim explores fear. Edgar Brim is filled with fear and his main mission is not just to kill the monsters that haunt him but also to kill his fear... Young people have so many fears these days and countless, it seems, suffer from problems with anxiety. ... I've struggled with anxiety myself at times, and I think many writers and artists do, since we are experts about worrying about the human condition, and about ourselves.*

*(Shane Peacock, from an interview with Anita Daher, Winnipegreview.com)*

In January, 2017 the CBC chose *The Dark Missions* for its *Friday the 13th* list of *Superbly Scary Books for Young Adults*.

Following the theme of larger-than-life characters, Shane chose artist Vincent Van Gogh as the unlikely hero of his **young children's book, *The Artist and Me***, with illustrator Sophie Casson. This time it is not anxiety, but bullying and peer pressure that Shane tackles, even while introducing young people to an important historical figure.



Receiving awards and nominations for his books and plays is almost commonplace now for Shane. *Eye of the Crow*, in particular, has caught the critics' attention:

- Junior Library Guild of America – Premier Selection
- Arthur Ellis Award for best Young Adult crime novel in Canada
- The Violet Downey Award (best English Language book for children in Canada)
- Moonbeam Children's Book Award Gold Medal

Shane and his wife, journalist Sophie Kneisel, live with their three children on a small farm near Cobourg. In his spare time he enjoys playing hockey, reading, and walking the high wire, **pretending that he is the hero in each of his stories.**

