

Frank B. Edwards, Publisher

Background

- Journalism school, Carleton University, 1975.
- Magazine editor/feature writer/photo editor, 1975–1985. *Canadian Geographic*, *Harrowsmith*, *Equinox*.
- Book editor/publisher, 1985–1989. Camden House (books for *Harrowsmith* and *Equinox* magazines). \$4.5 million annual revenue.
- Bungalo Books/Pokeweed Press editor/publisher, 1986–present.
- Children’s author: 24 books for kids. (Illustrated 4 non-fiction, 2 novels, 18 picture books.)
- Adult non-fiction author: 3 illustrated history books. Edited *The Cottage Book*.
- Frequent visiting author to schools across Canada (as well as the U.S.A., Qatar and Bahrain). More than 1,000 talks and workshops to students, teachers, and community groups.
- Occasional feature writer for *Globe & Mail*, 2010-present.
- Editorial director with Mercury Filmworks (Ottawa), creating content for a series of Disney-themed augmented reality books. 2015.
- Moved to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam, 2016.

Milestones

- Started Bungalo Books, small independent kids book publisher, with cartoonist John Bianchi, 1986. *Bungalo Boys: Last of the Tree Ranchers* (5,000 first press run sells out in 6 months).
- Adopted desktop publishing 1990. (Apple CX computer with 100 MG hard drive, Quark Xpress 1.0 = \$18,000 investment.)
- Writes first picture book, *Mortimer Mooner Stopped Taking a Bath*, 1990. 100,000 sold in first year.
- Switched to digital illustrations and email/online file transfers 1993 (when illustrator/partner John Bianchi moved to Tucson, AZ with family).
- Wrote *Kids, Computers and You*, a teacher’s guide to computers and education, 1995.
- *Mortimer Mooner Makes Lunch* sells 250,000 copies, 1995.
- Bungalo Books name change to Pokeweed Press imprint.

- Tries a new genre. Writes first adolescent novel, *Frogger*, 2000. It is nominated for a *Silver Birch Award* by Ontario Library Association.
- Publishing gets more complicated. General Publishing, Pokeweed's North American distributor, goes bankrupt, 2002.
- Buys partner's share of company, 2004.
- Last new Pokeweed title, *Bug* (a juvenile novel), published in 2007. Last reprint, 2008.
- Returns to college for one-year e-publishing program, Sept. 2011.
- Bungalo Books becomes a multi-media e-publisher when Apple releases **iBook Author**, January 2012.
- November 2012. Release of *Everest: High Expectations* as first iBook format project. iBook editions of nine children's picture books follow. (www.bungalobooks.com)

Noteworthy points

- John Bianchi couldn't get first book published so Frank offered to start a company to produce Bianchi's work.
- Frank has always been a seat-of-the-pants guy in terms of work. No computer or business background but always figured it out. Google and YouTube make tech life much easier these days.
- Prefers editorial/creative side of publishing.
- When *Frogger* was published in 2000, Quill and Quire wrote: "the versatile and prolific Frank Edwards, co-founder of Bungalo Books, and my nominee for the most 'can-do' figure in Canadian children's publishing, launches a new series of novels..."
- Frank's dad was a General Motors assembly line worker but a very handy guy who could build anything. When Frank was unemployed after university, his dad told him he'd never be out of work if he owned a truck. Frank sort of took that advice but bought a computer instead.
- Works at home. Built his own house (with a lot of help from some skilled friends) beside a quiet chain of lakes in eastern Ontario. Now works from his apartment in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam where he has relocated for two years with his partner Sigrid.
- Frank's closest friends are colleagues from his Harrowsmith/Equinox days. He was adventure photographer Pat Morrow's first editor (Canadian Geographic) in 1975 and they have been good friends since. They created *High Expectations* in four months of insane work.
- Frank has written a dozen feature obits for the Globe & Mail since 2010, as well as a juvenile biography of kids storyteller Robert Munsch.