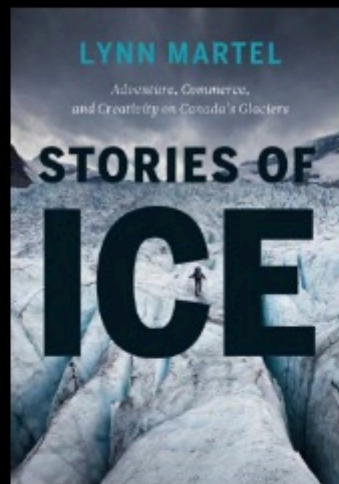




Photo: Paul Zirka



BOOK

STORIES OF ICE

By Lynn Martel (Rocky Mountain Books), 2020

Lynn Martel's third book more than lives up to its author's reputation for bringing Western Canada's wild mountain landscapes to life through the unique experiences of those who live and work there. *Stories of Ice* chronicles the glacial exploits of a series of individuals — explorers, professional guides, tourism operators, scientists, artists, filmmakers — and weaves together an incredibly readable history of British Columbia and Alberta's glaciers. Readers will no doubt recognize stories about some of the book's many big names, like Pat Morrow and CMH Heli-Skiing. But it's perhaps the tome's more obscure tales about lesser-known people (Martel writes about siblings Mary, William, and George Vaux, part of "Canada's first family of glaciology") that make this a must-read for mountain-culture enthusiasts.

Martel herself is an avid glacier adventurer who edited the Alpine Club of Canada's *Gazette* for 13 years and worked as a newspaper reporter in Canmore, Alberta. She sprinkles her own first-person vignettes into the book, helping to convey the magic, as well as the challenges, humans experience in the presence of moving masses of ice that are thousands of years old. Her conversational prose flows easily. "In North America, the most recent granddaddy of all ice sheets was the Laurentide Ice Sheet," Martel writes, like a mash-up of your best friend and your favourite science teacher. An added bonus: *Stories of Ice* contains the work of more than two-dozen notable landscape photographers.

— Jayme Moyer