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## Our Summer Reading List

Look no further for summer reading suggestions. This eclectic list comes courtesy of FoTTSA Flash readers who responded to a recent call for titles.

FoTTSA Flash is an e-newsletter published monthly. Not on our distribution list? Send an email to [secretary.fotssa@tinycottager.org](mailto:secretary.fotssa@tinycottager.org)

**Strangers in the House:**  
*A Prairie Story of Bigotry and Belonging*  
by CANDACE SAVAGE

Why would anyone in Tiny be interested in reading a Prairie story of bigotry? One reason is that Chapter 5 is devoted to the Township of Tiny. Another reason is the book contains information on the Blondin and Parent families, both of which have members still living in Tiny. Furthermore, the book is a good read.

The story begins in Saskatoon, where the author's daughter brings home a list of people who have lived in their house since it was first built in 1928 by one Napoléon Sureau dit Blondin. Who was Napoléon Sureau dit Blondin, and what was he doing in Saskatchewan? These questions prompted Candace Savage to research the home's first occupant and examine what the publisher describes as "a troubling episode in Canadian history."

In Chapter 5 we learn that Napoleon's father, Cleophas, arrived in Tiny with his parents from Quebec in the late 1860s, settling in Tiny, "a nobby finger of land that juts north into Lake Huron's Georgian Bay... to the community of Lafontaine, near the farthest most end of the Penetanguishene Peninsula. Here, in the Township of Tiny, the French presence ran deep." Napoléon was born not long after the move and grew up in what the author uncharitably describes as "a place of constant limitation where it was wise to nurture small thoughts and modest ambitions." Given the author's description of Tiny it is not surprising that Cleophas and family moved west to the "anti French" prairies early in the 20th century rather than continue to endure Tiny.

Although the last 135 pages deal with the Prairies and not Tiny, they are interesting for several reasons. While the author is not French, she clearly thinks the French got a raw deal in Canada in general and in Saskatchewan in particular. Her description of the Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Saskatchewan is of interest.

From beginning to end the book moves at a good pace.  
— Joe Martin, Addison Beach

P.S. Facts are not the author's strong point.  
**The World in a Grain: The Story of Sand and How It Transformed Civilization**  
by VINCE BEISER

There are many glossy publications magnifying all the hidden beauty in sand crystals and their various components. This

book takes an entirely different approach.

It's a compelling story about how sand has become such an important part of our everyday lives. Sand is found in everything from concrete to computer chips, from stained glass windows to toothpaste. It's used in fracking and fibre-optic cable; it's used to build islands.

Many claim that sand is the most important overlooked commodity in the world and predict that we are running out of it. Seems odd, but the catch is that the most accessible sand — desert sand — is of no use for most commercial purposes because of its rounded edges; picture building a pyramid with marbles.

The explosion in sand extraction began in the early 20th century when rapidly growing cities with concrete buildings and asphalt streets started to replace wooden and brick structures and cobblestone roadways. And now cities and skyscrapers and expressways are booming in every part of the world.

Although glass beads and other glass ornaments have existed for centuries, it was the introduction of mass sheet glass that required ever increasing amounts of sand. And as new technologies developed and high percentage silica sand reserves were discovered, processes such as computer chip production and fracking also made huge demands on this special resource.

Another very profitable sand industry is led by land-building entrepreneurs; for example, the expansion of coastlines for real estate in Singapore, the building of an entire island for a defensive airstrip in China and for luxury beachside mansions in Dubai, and for replenishing beaches in Florida and California.

What is this high demand for sand doing to our environment? Usually laws that protect our environment are introduced as new industries develop, but this is not the case in many parts of the world, which has led to what is described as "the sand mafia." Riverbed and ocean sand dredging/extraction affect adjacent land masses and disturb delicate habitat. Hardscaping shorelines interferes with natural replenishment of beach sand.

Environmental experts and ocean scientists are sounding the alarm, and efforts are underway to find sand alternatives. The question remains: how can countries protect their own sand while making sure not to stop the flow of modern conveniences that we all depend on?

*The World in a Grain* deftly tracks the history of sand use and the people who mine it, sell it, build with it, and sometimes even kill for it. Meet world-changing innovators and murderous sand pirates. An entertaining, unexpected and eye-opening read.

— Linda Andrews, Wahnekewening Beach

**Educated: A Memoir**  
by TARA WESTOVER

This is an amazing memoir of a struggle for knowledge and education. Tara Westover was 17 when she first set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag." In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard.

— Irene Wilson, Wendake Beach  
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We didn't realize 30 years ago how important that phrase would be. The recent COVID crisis has made it our focus to ensure that our families, employees, customers and friends are kept as safe and well as possible. This approach has sustained us through this difficult time and we will continue to do everything we can to be of help and support to anyone in our community.

We are heavily invested in our community as well. From the beginning Midland Toyota has believed in the "Shop Midland" culture. It's our aim to use local trades, local goods and services with the long term view that the relationships we build will be of value to the community. Still today, we have relationships that have lasted more than 25 years from local businesses that helped us build our store to our first customers that purchased vehicles from us.

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...continued from page 13(Summer Reading List)

### Last Hope Island

by LYNNE OLSON

A fascinating history of Britain's role in the Second World War, it challenges many war myths and gives credit to overlooked heroes of the war, including ordinary citizens struggling to save their lives and protect their freedom.

— Irene Wilson

### I Am Number Four

by PITTICUS LORE

My 12-year-old grandson observed me reading *I Am Number Four* and said that I was really gonna love the book. Wait, what? Is he reading the same book as me? Yes, and it's a great read and is the first in a series of six written by Pitticus Lore. It's about nine alien teens living on Earth pursued by the evil Mogadorians who destroyed their planet, Lorien.

Number Four (the previous four have been killed in order) is 15-year-old John Smith, his most recently chosen name in a life spent moving every few months and constantly changing his identity. He is one of nine "Garde" who secretly came to Earth as children after the destruction of their home planet, who develop superpowers in adolescence and are mentored and trained by their adult "Cepan" in an effort to retake Lorien from the Mogadorians, who are relentlessly searching for them.

Before you dismiss this as the type of book you would never read, think Harry Potter. If you read that and were hooked, this will pull you in to a world that will keep you (or the young readers) page turning or Kindling all summer. Steven Spielberg's company DreamWorks produced a film shortly after the book came out in 2010.

— Al Taylor, Kingswood Acres

### Talking to Strangers

by MALCOLM GLADWELL

This is a very popular book written by someone who was raised in rural Ontario. It tries to explain why we so often misread the intent of people we do not know; even though we may feel we are good judges of character. It is eclectic and broad ranging, using examples such as Jerry Sandusky, Amanda Knox, and Sylvia Plath. The conclusion is we cannot properly tell what motivates someone just by looking at them, or speaking with them for a few minutes. The subtitle is, "What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know." A great read and a real eye opener.

— Tom Goldie, Woodland Beach

### Me: By Elton John

Elton John's autobiography. A fascinating read, especially for long term fans. He is very open about his life, revealing details which are shocking in some cases. The relationships he has had with many well-known personalities are interesting, as were his personality quirks. This is an autobiography rather than a memoir; it is a chronology of his life rather than just specific highlights. It was much better, and more honest, than I had expected it to be.

— Tom Goldie

### The History of Baseball in 10 Pitches

by Tyler Kepner

This is a baseball book which devotes a separate chapter to specific pitches, such as a fastball, a slider, a sinker, a changeup etc. It talks about the history of each pitch, how it is thrown, profiles on the pitchers who have thrown it over the years, and hitters who have faced those pitchers. It is a great read for fans who miss the game, and a very unique way of explaining baseball history. It would be of interest to diehard fans, and those with a more casual interest.

— Tom Goldie

### The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir

by Samantha Power

Written by Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power's memoir is truly captivating. Though the title may allow for a number of assumptions, *The Education of an Idealist* serves as a call to arms for those contemplating what one person can really do. Power effortlessly critiques and corrects the contemporary political space, calling for a kinder, gentler and more open demeanor amongst those addressing the world's most challenging problems. This memoir serves as a literary trip through Power's life, bringing the reader to her childhood in Dublin, her high school years in Atlanta, her university days at Yale, her early career in war-torn Bosnia, and ultimately her work within the walls of the White House. A prominent part of Obama's 2008 presidential campaign and ultimately a valued member of his cabinet, Power has written a memoir that provides a behind the scenes view of not only the intricacies of forming foreign policy and undertaking diplomatic missions, but also a more intimate look at the struggles and difficulties of being a working mother, a present partner and a woman in civil service.

— Catherine Houston, Thunder Beach

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