

In the know

All things Knowlton Literary Festival

www.knowltonliteraryfestival.ca



Festival Dates: October 15–17, 2026

*Whit Fraser will be in conversation with journalist Paul Workman at the Brome Lake Community Centre (270 Victoria, Knowlton) for the festival's opening reception on Friday October 16, 2026, discussing his passion for the Arctic, life as a journalist, and his latest book: **From Ragged Ass Road To Rideau Hall**.*



Whit Fraser continued ...

policy in the polar regions and improving human health and social issues in the North.

As the executive director of the national Inuit organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, from 2001 to 2006, he coordinated the Inuit-specific agenda presented to the Kelowna First Ministers' meeting on Aboriginal issues in 2005.

Their Excellencies were married in 1994. Mr. Fraser has three children, three stepchildren and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Whit Fraser

His Excellency Whit Grant Fraser is the spouse of Mary May Simon, Canada's first Indigenous Governor General and the 30th Governor General since Confederation. He was born in Merigomish, Pictou County, Nova Scotia on November 26, 1942.

Mr. Fraser is an author and a storyteller who has had a front seat to many of the historic events in the last half century in the Canadian Arctic.

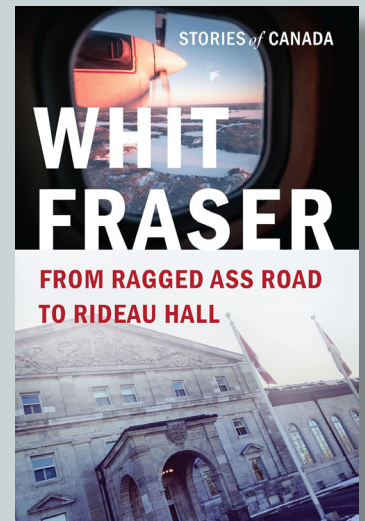
His passion for the Arctic and its peoples began more than five decades ago when he relocated from Nova Scotia to the Canadian Arctic to work as a journalist with CBC North. From his base in Iqaluit (then called Frobisher Bay) and later Yellowknife, Mr. Fraser travelled to the far corners of the Canadian North, as well as to Alaska and Greenland, to share important stories for Indigenous peoples and other northerners on TV and radio. His coverage included the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, the negotiations leading to the signing of comprehensive Inuit land claims agreements, and the historic First Ministers' meetings in the 1980s where Indigenous rights were affirmed in Canada's constitution. In all, Mr. Fraser spent 25 years with the CBC, including 8 years as a national Parliamentary reporter in Ottawa.

In the years following his extensive journalistic career, Mr. Fraser remained closely connected to the North. He was the founding chair of the Canadian Polar Commission from 1991 to 1997, working with the board of directors on a series of recommendations and measures aimed at enhancing science

FROM RAGGED ASS ROAD TO RIDEAU HALL

- *Stories of Canada.*

From Ragged Ass Road to Rideau Hall is a sweeping memoir from veteran journalist and northern chronicler Whit Fraser, tracing a lifetime spent at the front lines of the events that shaped modern Canada. From his youth in Nova Scotia to decades reporting across the Arctic, Fraser offers a riveting, behind-the-scenes account of major national turning points—stories he reported on up close, but never fully had the chance to tell until now.



“This is my book about Canada. It comes at a critical time when our sovereignty is under threat and we are determined to stand our ground, and protect our waters, whether frozen or thawed. I’ve been fortunate, as a journalist and the partner of Mary Simon, the Governor General of Canada, to experience Canada in a way that perhaps no one else has. Sharing stories, which include some of the most painful and satisfying moments I witnessed, is my way of contributing to Canada making its way in these challenging times.” —WHIT FRASER