

AMANDA

Thank you all for coming today. Judy and I picked this day for our launch, October 28, 2026, because it's the date Helen died, 89 years ago, in 1937. When things seem to happen for a reason, you need to pay attention...but more on that later when we tell the "story behind the story."

This book would not have been possible without the countless individuals who generously shared their time, opinions, and expertise. I'll start by thanking our Royal Canadian Legion executive, especially Pierre, Helen and Calvin, as well as our office staff and our membership, who have been so supportive this past year. Furthermore, many thanks to Maureen and our Ladies Auxiliary for supplying their time, coffee and snacks, and Roberta (and Deanne? Rosemary?) for all this amazing baking.

A huge debt of gratitude goes to our friend, current camp owner Bill McCulloch. From 2014, when I first visited Leishman Lake, to October of 2025, when both Judy and I were invited to Bill's camp, he has gone above and beyond, sharing memories, vintage photographs, and his knowledge of the Algoma District.

An equal debt of gratitude goes to our intrepid research assistant, and Bill's partner, Deanne Avery. From typing up a binder full of newspaper clippings to dredging up the remnants of an old boat, Deanne's energy never wavered as she cheerfully chased down rabbit holes and relevant facts.

JUDY

The devil truly is in the details, and that is even more true in a work of nonfiction. Our understanding of Canada's legal system, past and present, was immeasurably aided by Larry Owen, former Crown Attorney, York Region, Ontario. His insights and feedback were invaluable.

“Insider” knowledge of prosecuting attorney John O’Flynn, the Crown’s investigation, and subsequent case at trial was made possible by Archives of Ontario.

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Our thanks to:

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Mary Collier, curator at the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre.

Tim Sundstrom, historian, Searchmont Historical Society.

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Jody Hudec, for her early research as we began this work, and her efforts to make this launch a success, and for her 40 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Cassie Amond, owner of Diamond Creative Studio, for her graphic arts skills. Cassie designed our cover, our bookmarks, and a sketch of the cabin inside the book.

Cliffe Printing. The copies being sold here today are true first editions, published in a limited quantity for our exclusive distribution and sale. Cliffe also printed the matching bookmarks and our display posters.

And of course...Maria Bock, for being our #1 fan on the A Fatal Affair Facebook page.

We also wish to acknowledge the Ontario Arts Council, Northern Arts Program, for believing in our project, especially Alana Forslund, Northern Arts Representative, for her ongoing support.

Last, but by no means least, we are grateful for the love, patience, and support that our respective partners in crime, Frank Bock and Mike Sheluk, have shown us this past year.

Our sincere apologies for ignoring you both.