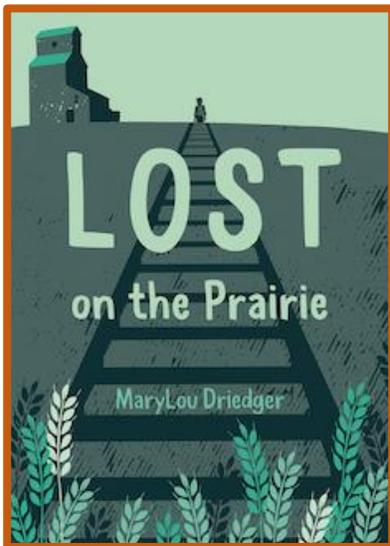


Lost on the Prairie

by MaryLou Driedger

Newsletter- April 2021



On Book Store Shelves May 28th!

My novel has an official release date. It will arrive at bookstores on May 28th. You can pre-order it now at [McNally Robinson Booksellers](#), on [Amazon](#) and [Indigo](#). I am in the process of organizing my on-line launch with McNallys so pre-ordering the book will give them a good idea of how many copies to have on hand. You can do that by phone or online. My book was scheduled to leave the printer on April 16 for shipment to the warehouse and from there it will be off to bookstores.

How Does A Mill Work?

One scene in my novel takes place in a mill where wheat is ground into flour. To learn how a mill worked I watched [this video](#) of my friend Al Hamm demonstrating how the windmill at the Steinbach Heritage Village Museum works.





Thank You Nandini!

Nandini Thaker is the Heritage House editor who was assigned to my book. She was just wonderful! We worked as a team and she found so many things in my manuscript that needed fine tuning or rewriting. With her help we even added a really great study guide to the book for teachers and students. Nandini was patient and tried to respect my preferences on most things. It was a pleasure to work with her and Jacqui Thomas who did the layout and design for the book.

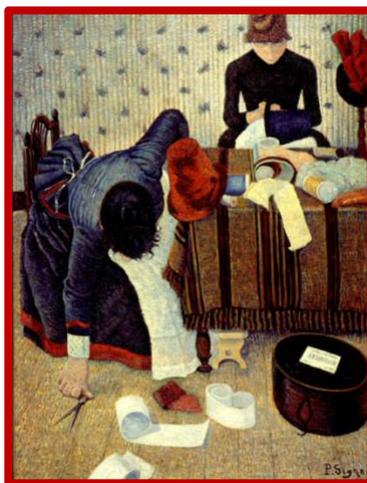


Grace Church Zoom

On March 31st I was pleased to be a guest of Grace Mennonite Church during an evening Zoom meeting. They asked me to talk about what my work as a writer has taught me about life and faith. I attended Grace Mennonite as a child and also during the thirty years my husband and I made our home in Steinbach. It was great to see so many old friends. Of course, I used the opportunity to talk about *Lost on the Prairie* as well and get people interested in reading it. I wrote [a blog post](#) that summarized the things I talked about.

In the Millinery Shop

In my novel Peter stays for a time with a distant cousin Euphemia Schmidt who owns a millinery shop. To find out how a millinery shop would have looked at the turn of the century I consulted some paintings by famous artists- Paul Signac's *The Millinery* and Edgar Degas' *The Millinery Shop*.





Grain Elevators

On his train trip my hero Peter sees grain elevators and wonders what they are. There is a grain elevator on the front cover of *Lost on the Prairie*. Peter's family is moving from Newton Kansas to Drake Saskatchewan. I recently ordered a copy of the Drake History Book and it says that the first elevator in Drake was built in 1907, exactly the year Peter and his family arrived there.

Pre-orders Coming In

It is exciting to hear from people that they have already pre-ordered my book. My sister-in-law Julie in Leamington Ontario has her order in as does my Aunt Mary in Hesston Kansas. My friends Meena in Hong Kong and Sharon in Australia have told me they have books reserved too. Thinking about different people in different places in the world reading my story makes me very happy.



My sister-in-law Julie, my Aunt Mary and my friends Meena and Sharon have all ordered their copies of *Lost on the Prairie* already



Thanks for your support everyone. My next newsletter will have information about my book launch and the debut of my website. Stay tuned!

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MaryLou