

The Beckoning Land is the story of one man's desire to find where he belongs, to discover what he believes and to seek those with whom he can share life. It chronicles his quest for peace of mind. Readers will readily identify with these concerns.

This historical novel unfolds during the Great Depression, World War Two and the post war boom in the village of Barry's Bay, two hundred kilometers northwest of Ottawa. Readers will quickly appreciate the settings, relate to the characters and become engaged with the story. The historical component is enlightening. The descriptions of the land make readers feel they are there. The characters are memorable individuals. They matter. Readers will laugh, cry, rejoice and reflect. At heart it could be their story.

Twenty-four year old Joe Dombroskie flees depression-scarred Toronto in 1934, builds a log cabin in the bush just south of Barry's Bay and finds work in the local garage. He remains unsettled. He feels compelled to live on the land, but enjoys working in town. He cherishes nature's gifts and lessons, yet yearns to build a business and help his community during the Depression. After 1939 he faces the choice of serving his country overseas or supporting his village and family at home. Joe avoids the Church, however respects the local priest and in quiet moments talks directly with God. He wants to serve others, but cares for his own expanding interests after the war. He struggles to find himself through fourteen years marked by depression, war and boom. Joe seeks peace of mind in his wife's arms, his children's smiles, his business enterprises, the bottle, prayers to God and, most importantly, during his walks on the beckoning land. Eventually he realizes the land gives him a sense of himself that allows him to live a meaningful existence.

About the Author: Born in Toronto in 1950, I acquired land near Barry's Bay at twenty-four, built a log cabin and settled into cottage life beside an isolated lake. I completed my Ph.D. in Canadian History at York University in 1977 and became a stockbroker for the next twenty-seven years. At fifty-four, my wife and I, after raising a son and a daughter, retired to our land. I spent the next eight years writing a column for the local newspaper and wrote articles published in Country Connection, The Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail.

I began **The Beckoning Land** three years ago. I interviewed fourteen people between the age of eighty and a hundred and one. I read the local council minutes and bylaws for the years 1933 to 1950 and examined the Ministry of Natural Resources land records for the same period. Finally, to confirm reality from time to time, I looked out the window and in the mirror.

I have enjoyed researching, writing and revising this book. I think you will enjoy reading it. My telephone number is 613-756-2515 and email is davidgcoombs@gmail.com

The Beckoning Land may be purchased by going to lulu.com, entering **The Beckoning Land** in the search box, clicking Q and choosing the print or electronic format under all products.