

Ajax writer explores famous, not-so-famous in new book

Retired journalist depicts how 150 people and animals gained their 15 minutes of fame

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AJAX -- Some peoples' 15 minutes of fame can be embarrassing, heroic, tragic or plain evil -- but they're all worth writing about for an Ajax author and veteran journalist.

Former Canadian Press journalist Dale Patterson, 60, released his book last month called '15 Minutes of Fame: History's One-Hit Wonders'.

The book features more than 150 stories of people including criminals, athletes, politicians and others in all walks of life who were thrown briefly into the spotlight with headlines. The book also includes mentions of where subjects found themselves after the limelight burned out.

"It's part of the narrative -- not just what happened but what happened after," said Mr. Patterson who repeatedly referenced his intrigue of where people wound up.

"You hear about the fame, you hear about what happened, but rarely hear about what happened after."

Mr. Patterson joined the Canadian Press in the 1970s during his last year of studying journalism at Ryerson University. His position there turned into a 35-year career of writing and broadcast.

He also was a weekly host on CBC's FM-108 for five years.

In 2010 Mr. Patterson retired from Canadian Press.

"You know when you're ready. I wanted the opportunity to write books...I don't think you ever leave (writing)," he said. "As a journalist you're always writing."

Mr. Patterson is already planning his next book, which he says may tell the untold stories of "the bridesmaids and runner-ups in history," he said.

He cited astronaut Michael Collins as one exam-

ple, who orbited the moon in the Apollo 11 as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took their first steps on the surface and into history.

"When my daughter ever asks me a question about history I never give her the short answer. I always give her the long answer," said Mr. Patterson, who explained his fascination with history.

He also wrote the book 'What Time of Day Was That? History by the Minute', in 2001, pinpointing the exact

time of famous historical events.

Outside his writing career, Mr. Patterson is a member of the Annandale Curling Club in Ajax.

He also operates rock radio scrapbook -- at www.rockradioscrapbook.com -- a website featuring radio rock broadcasts from the '50, '60s and '70s.

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AJAX -- Dale Patterson from Ajax recently released the book 'Fifteen Minutes of Fame: Histories of One Hit Wonders'.
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