

## Birthplace

My grandparents' early century Medicine Hat home  
had a wood balustrade staircase.

Upstairs were three bedrooms, a sewing room,  
a bathroom with a pedestal sink,  
four-spoked faucets, a clawfoot bathtub.

During my childhood's weekend visits,  
I would peer out the bathroom  
at the eerie glow from the Red Rock Coulee.  
I remember floral wallpaper with bunnies,  
push button light switches,  
curtains in place of bedroom doors,  
hardwood floors.

Living in Calgary,  
I came across a black and white photo,  
December 1962, of my parents and I—  
my Mom holding me in her arms,  
them standing on their Calgary home's driveway,  
a six-foot bank of snow behind us.

In Medicine Hat, during hot, dry summers,  
my grandparents would tend their huge garden.  
My parents would help pick tomatoes,  
green beans, snow peas,  
Concord grapes, plums.

My Grandma made fun gors,  
storing them on her enclosed front porch  
instead of refrigerating them.

Medicine Hat memories.

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