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poetry

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James Scoles goes on daily walks in back alleys in Wolseley.

open water long haul
by melanie brannagan frederiksen

a little storm a short mile

for the first time amy isn't in the boat
with jack waiting to haul me up by my arms just as my head and throat fill
with lake ontario
the water i cough up tastes of loneliness

the lake its open invitation
especially when i burn with fury when muscles and lungs ignite with a shriek
like lightning announces
a little storm
the lake tastes of rage
singed seaweed on my tongue for months

a short mile
i need gathering to fight the winds and swells jack cheers me on and i
haul myself forward imagining amy's the one shouting when i haven't heard her voice in
four years
set my jaw so i don't turn back mom on the dock

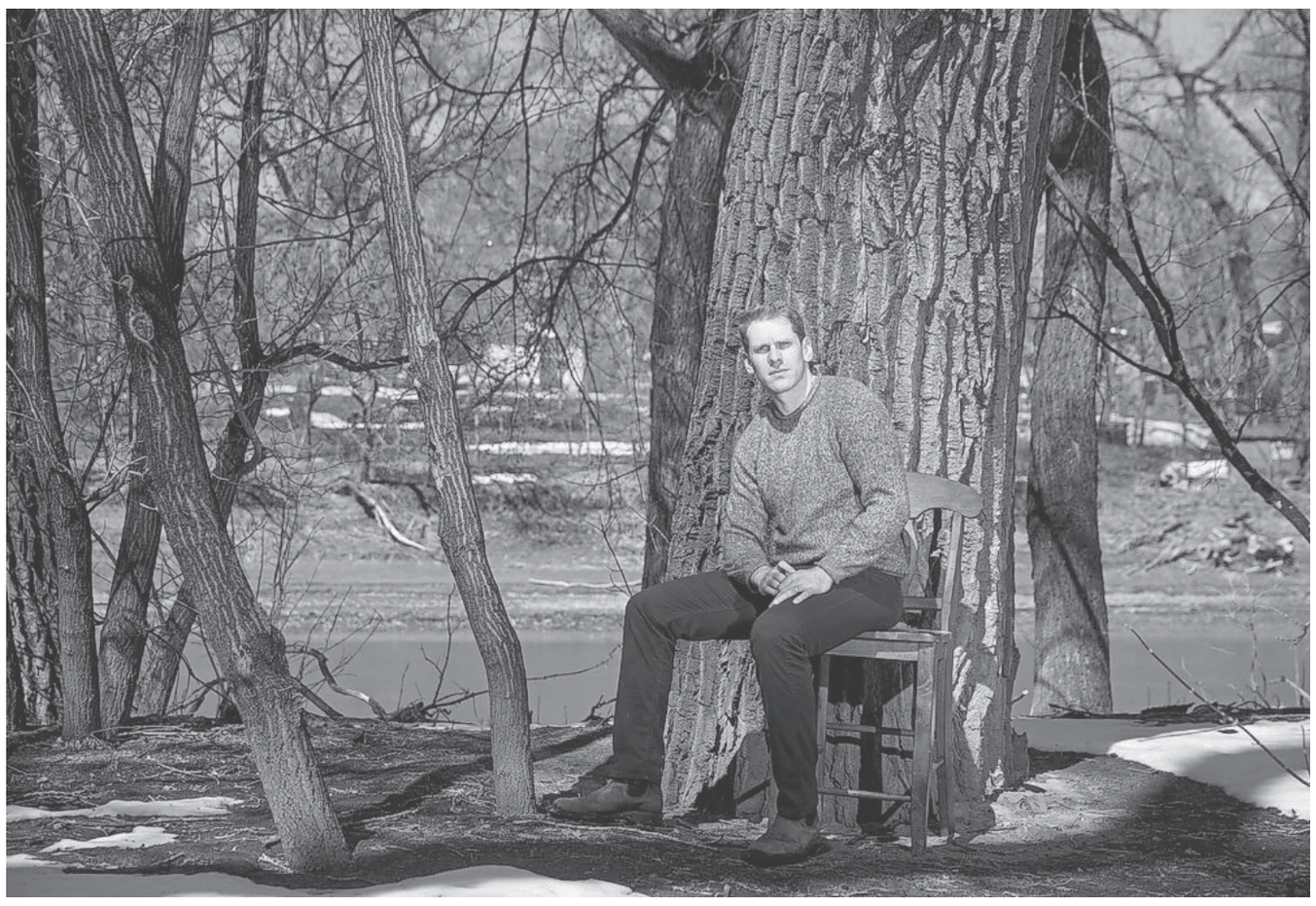
just a short mile
push on because i can't be another daughter
leaving her waiting

***melanie brannagan frederiksen** is a writer, copy editor, and critic whose work has appeared in* Prairie Fire, CV2, *and* Prairie Books NOW.

Small town, big shine
by James Scoles

Small town, big shine
Tough luck at this little
box office: the film has
been shredded and the
lights are dim. But see
the usher still sweeping
her light? Not looking
for rule-breakers, just
wrinkles in the dark.

***James Scoles** is the author of* The Trailer (Signature Editions). *He teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Winnipeg.*



Noah Cain would access the Assiniboine River during the winter through Hugo Park.

the shore is the mending site
by Noah Cain

because the river we travel reflects
forest and sky and boulders hide
beneath the moving gleam
emulate the canoe

while more rigid vessels ricochet downstream
powering past minor crashes, a serious wreck
strands them without the materials of repair
emulate the canoe

made from what it travels through
patched with birch bark
bound with boiled spruce roots
sealed with the resin that oozes
from scars in scaly bark

***Noah Cain** teaches high school English at Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School. His work has appeared in* CV2 , Teacher Voice Anthology, *and* The Temz Review.