



Lucille Scott wins international indie book recognition

When she was approached by Métis author and retired teacher Wilfred Burton at a craft sale in Wanuskewin in February of 2020, Lucille Scott needed just 30 minutes to decide that she'd illustrate his children's book, *Ride, Gabe, Ride*.

A self-taught Métis artist from Canwood, Scott is best known for her intricately detailed, small-scale feather paintings, but she's been creating art nearly her whole life.

"All my life, I've been a doodler. When I was supposed to be doing homework, I would doodle," she said. "I just watched things. I'd look at something and see if I could draw it. It was always a bit of a challenge for me to see if I could get it right."

Illustrating a book, however, was something entirely new for Scott, and it was an opportunity she wasn't sure she'd ever get again.

By March of 2021, she'd completed 14 illustrations on 16 x 25 inch canvases — much larger work than she was accustomed to — and 14 fillers for the book. She dedicated her work to her three-year-old grandson, Mason LaRose.

"He's the one who inspired me to not just sit back and do nothing with a God-given talent," she said.

In 2021, the book was self-published through Regina-based Your Nickel's Worth Publishing. Shortly after, Burton began entering it in a number of book award competitions, including the Next Generation Indie Book Awards, an inter-

national awards program for independent authors and publishers.

The book was met with approval from the judges of those awards, earning one of five finalist distinctions in the children's book category for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) authors and illustrators

"When I got that email, and it told me I had won a medal, I cried," Scott said. "To get your name out there as an artist, that's a real great honour. It's not very often a person gets the opportunity to do that."

Based on historic events, *Ride, Gabe, Ride* tells the tale of a dangerous, exhilarating hunt led by famed Métis buffalo hunter, Gabriel Dumont.

As she went about creating the illustrations for the book, Scott says she had to do a lot of historical research to make sure she got every detail just right.

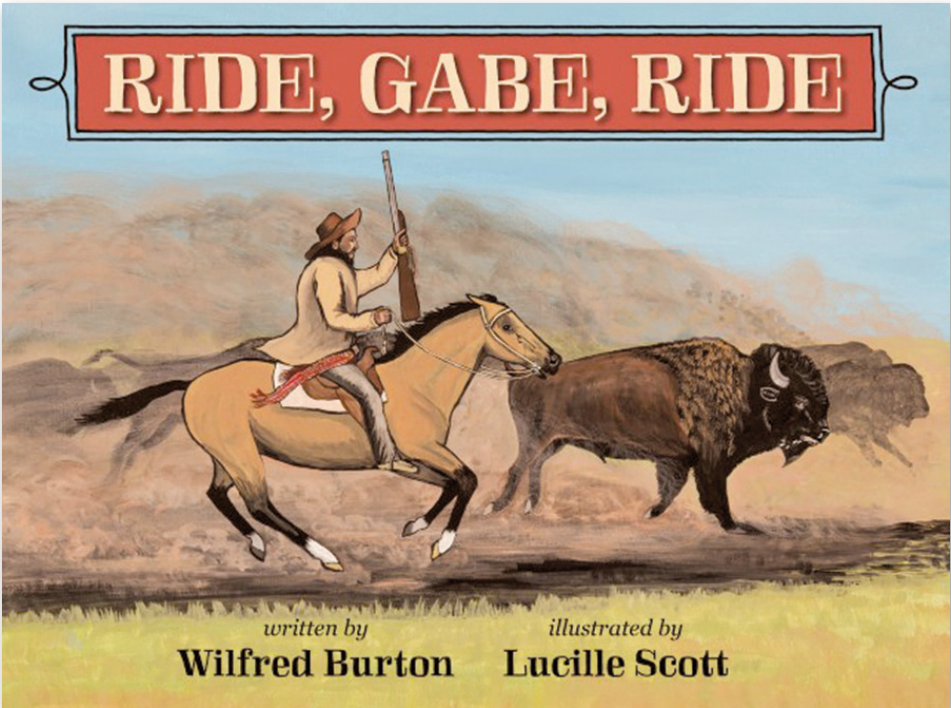
Scott says the research process was one of the most enjoyable aspects of illustrating the book, and that it was like "falling back into time." She also greatly enjoyed illustrating the action of the buffalo hunt, and the feelings her illustrations evoked.

Being Métis herself, Scott says she's glad she chose to illustrate *Ride, Gabe, Ride*, as it will help preserve her cultural heritage.

"As time goes by, we all have these stories handed down to us. If they're not put into books, those stories get lost," she said. "Now that it's illustrated in a book, it will be remembered forever."



Canwood-based Métis artist Lucille Scott is now an internationally recognized, award winning illustrator, having earned a finalist distinction in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards for author Wilfred Burton's children's book *Ride, Gabe, Ride*.



Ride, Gabe, Ride tells the true story of a buffalo hunt undertaken by Gabriel Dumont.



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