



## Editor's Invitation

When Del and I first started discussing the details of this project he was definite about the title. In his mind "Swan Song" was the only choice because "People would be reading the ramblings of an old fart." Having heard him read many of these poems publicly, I couldn't wrap my head around such a sad and almost morbid title. It wasn't inclusive of the perspective that these poems hold. And it certainly didn't convey the vibrancy of his mind or tongue in cheek humour.

Through the course of many visits and hours listening to wonderful old records I began to see between the tinges, traces, and tone of his age.



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For a person near the end of their human experience current events and societal behaviour could appear quite tedious. For a man of Del Pine's intellect tedium becomes visible for what it is – the essence of 'being' human.

One night as I was going through all of the poems to format the book a realization of all the energy involved in 'being' crept inside and my body felt heavy. At that moment a single title jumped out at me. "Leaving Eden". It has so many connotations. For some, Earth with all its splendour could be Eden, for others, not so much. What would it be like to leave Eden? Do you leave when you *become* human or when you die?

Leaving Eden is the beginning and end of human journey. It is a culmination of hindsight, victory, resolution and perhaps, regret.

A light hand was used in the process of editing this book. Not all of the sentence structure is grammatically correct, as Del's writing style is more about stroke and beat, metre and rhyme. He writes to be read aloud.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of bringing this book to you. The emotions and experience held between these covers will likely bring you to question the sameness of daily routine. With that, I invite you to escape in the wit and whimsy of a human being.

With light,  
Cindy O'Neil

Excerpted from author Del Pine's book  
*Leaving Eden* published in 2007