

Cobourg author explores immigrant experience

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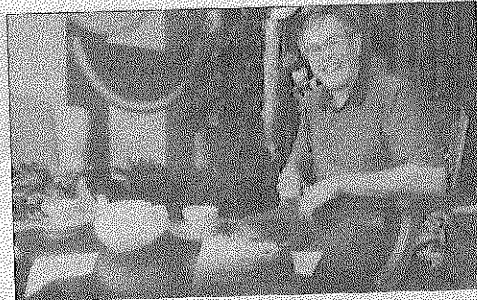
COBOURG -- He has been an actor, encyclopedia salesman and vice-president of a financial services company. Cobourg author Shane Joseph knows how to reinvent himself.

Mr. Joseph will launch a collection of short stories called 'Paradise Revisited' on Oct. 2. As an immigrant to Canada, Mr. Joseph said starting over from scratch is an experience most newcomers are familiar with. When you arrive in a new country, you must work hard to reestablish your life and career, he said.

"Frankly you are no one when you get here," he said. "As an immigrant you have to reinvent yourself."

Mr. Joseph left Sri Lanka in 1980 and lived in Dubai before coming to Canada in 1987. He started life again in Canada working his way up the corporate world in Toronto. He later settled in Cobourg, bought a travel agency and established Blue Denim Press with his wife Sarah Jacob three years ago. When he returned to Sri Lanka in 2008, he realized Canada is now home. "I realized I didn't belong there," he said. "The mental picture I have of Sri Lanka is not there anymore."

In 'Paradise Revisited,' the short stories recount the different experiences of immigration -- from a young man who is about to leave his country to a story about an older



COBOURG -- Author Shane Joseph is set to release his new book 'Paradise Revisited'.

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man who returns to help the war-torn Sri Lanka. The stories are fiction but based on real experiences. The characters all have different reasons for leaving Sri Lanka such as political strife or a family secret.

The collection of seven short stories follows on the heels of Mr. Joseph's 2011 book 'The Ulysses Man,' which was also about the immigrant journey.

'Paradise Revisited' will be presented at the Writing Down the Ages book launch, which will also feature two other Blue Denim Press new books. Toronto author Ann Elizabeth Carson will launch 'We All Become Stories.' Norwood writer Ursula Pflug will release 'The Alphabet Stones.' There will also be guest readings from authors Ruth Clarke and Brian Mullally. The book launch is at Meet at 66 King East, 66 King St. E., Cobourg on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. The entry fee of \$15 includes a copy of any one of the three new releases or any other Blue Denim Press title.