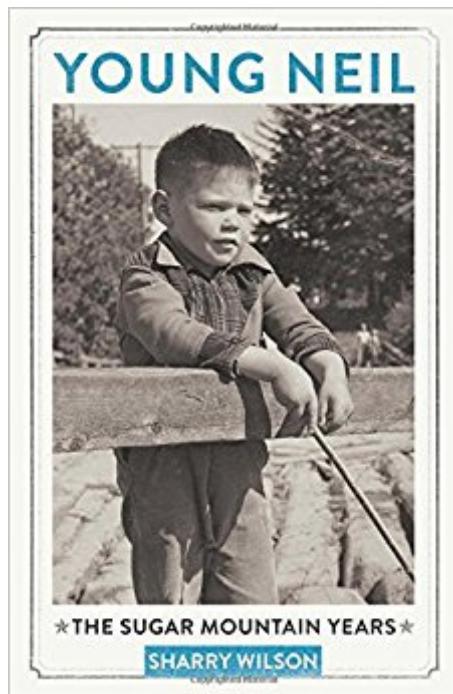


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# Young Neil: The Sugar Mountain Years



## Synopsis

Young Neil is a detailed chronological narrative of the early life of iconic Canadian musician Neil Young. Exploring a time in this Rock and Roll Hall of Famer's life that has yet to be documented with such depth of research, Young Neil is an exhaustive document of his "Sugar Mountain" years, from 1945 to 1966. From his birth in Toronto through his school years in Florida, Ontario, and Manitoba, the book examines the development of Young's unique talent against a backdrop of shifting postwar values, a turbulent family history, and a musical revolution in the making. Includes many previously unseen photos, memorabilia, and set lists.

## Book Information

Paperback: 456 pages

Publisher: ECW Press (October 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1770411860

ISBN-13: 978-1770411869

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I've been waiting for this book for a long time! As a teenager in Winnipeg in the '70s, Neil was a god to us. We drove the 500 miles to Minneapolis during grade 12 at Kelvin to see him for the first time -- and to our great dumb-luck fortune, it was the Rust Never Sleeps tour! I went and found his picture in the old yearbooks in the Kelvin library, but beyond that it was really hard to find out anything about his life. Just like Lowell Mass ignored Kerouac for decades, Winnipeg never really embraced any person from there who did anything with their lives. So sad. So stupid. Well -- everything's changed now! Woo-hoo! FINALLY I got to read about every gig, every band line-up, every amp he ever played through, every girl he ever flirted with, every teacher he had, every house party he went to . . . FINALLY the detailed scoop! It feels like the author interviewed every living person Neil ever came in contact with. I happened to go to the same high school and community clubs where he

played, but I gotta think this book would bring that world to life for anybody from anywhere. It was high school, it was dating, it was insecurity, it was being broke, it was a search for adventure. But the biggest take-away for me was how Neil didn't give up. How he kept re-approaching from different angles all the obstacles of having a band and making his way in music. Things were hopelessly bleak -- no amp to play through, bandmates for whom music was far from their first priority, very limited gig options, pressures from teachers at school, a broken marriage by his parents, being a weird kid in a new town who was shy and awkward and couldn't play sports and didn't cotton to authority -- I mean, EVERYthing was against him. This is the basic storyline of somebody who went on to be some famous badguy ... or one of the millions of petty criminals we never hear about. And it wasn't like he was some sort of genius prodigy. When you read biographies of those people, they're so above-&-beyond and different from most of us that you can't really imagine yourself in their shoes. But this isn't Stevie Wonder or Stevie Winwood playing with the masters before they're old enough for a driver's license. This guy was next to helpless, I mean hopeless -- no babe magnet, no supernatural gifts, no money, no father figure ... and stuck in Winterpeg a thousand miles from anywhere. There's no WAY this guy should ever have amounted to anything. And that's the beauty of the story. And why anybody can relate to it and be inspired by it. All he did was keep at it. All he did was not give up. When Winnipeg didn't work, he went to Toronto. When Toronto didn't work he went to New York. When nothing else worked, he went to L.A. When bands fell apart he formed new ones. When he didn't have an amp he played through a stereo. When his car dropped dead on the side of the road he jumped on the back of a motorcycle and kept going. He always found some way to keep moving forward, around all obstacles, against all odds. And that's what makes this so inspiring. Don't give up. Don't give in. Don't be denied. Cuz you still might end up in the supergroup of your dreams.

Sharry Wilson scores a Hat Trick with this excellent book. I consider myself to be quite in the know when it comes to Neil Young. However this book contains tons of things about Neil Young that I didn't know. And Sharry presents it in a way that keeps things interesting and relates the Young Neil to the modern day Neil that people know. The amount of research that went into the writing of this book was exhaustive and it shows. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Neil Young! For the more causal fan, in some cases there may be more information about his early life than they may want to know but most of the book is really an outstanding read and again, this is a great deal of information that has not been covered in the many other books about this icon. And did I mention the numerous fantastic photos too? Congratulations to Sharry Wilson on a great job

writing this book!

I am a major Neil Young fan and also a fan of Sharry Wilson, author. This is well written, interesting and fills in so much of my favorite musician's life. Couldn't put it down. Now it has a place of honor among my other books about Neil Young. Highly recommend this jewel!

Incredibly well researched and a fascinating read for the Neil Young fan... Guessing Neil would learn quite a bit given the level of detail provided by the author... The pictures alone are worth the price of the book... Enjoy

The author sure put a lot of time and energy into learning about Neal's childhood, Interesting read for hardcore Young fans.

My husband is a HUGE fan of Neil Young. This book was a nice surprise for him! He read the whole book on vacation and now it sits very carefully with the rest of Neil Young books!

I was amazed at the amount of information on Neil's younger years. Definitely worth getting if you are like me: a serious Neil fan

well pleased

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