Introduction
David Pitt-Brooke is a writer and naturalist who is currently based in Tofino, on the west coast of British Columbia’s Vancouver Island. A former veterinarian and Parks Canada environmental education officer, Pitt-Brooke’s writing draws on his years of scientific training and experience and has focused on topics related to natural history and the environment. Critical acclaim, in the form of awards and enthusiastic reviews, attests to the fact that Pitt-Brooke combines his love for and knowledge of science with the ability to write eloquent and forceful prose.

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A. Works by David Pitt-Brooke

   [A month-by-month description of the author’s travels in Clayoquot Sound, this book was included in the *Globe and Mail*’s list of the 100 best books of 2004 (see D1, below).]

   [A profile of wildlife biologist Wayne Nelson and the colony of peregrine falcons he studies in the Queen Charlotte Islands, this article won a Science in Society Journalism Award in 2001 (see D2, below).]

   [In this essay, Pitt-Brooke discusses his interest in “literature of place”, and the importance of place to Canadians, as evinced in the country’s literature.]

B. Reviews of works by David Pitt-Brooke

   [A brief, laudatory review, nearly half of which consists of a summary; it calls the book “a well-produced and well-written introspective account.”]

   [An overwhelmingly positive review, as illustrated by the following comments: “… a beautiful and deeply interesting book.” “… uses an economy of language that reflects the ecosystem. It is exquisite to experience and thrives because of thrift and a perfection of
associations.” “… reads like an intelligent conversation spoken while witnessing the most astonishing beauty.”]

[A review aimed at school teachers and librarians that notes the book’s “superb use of imagery” and recommends the book for “higher-level academic achievers.”]

[A brief review that focuses as much on the political issues surrounding Clayoquot Sound as it does on the book, which the reviewer describes as “a hymn to [Pitt-Brooke’s] surroundings.”]

[This longer, mainly descriptive, review, praises the author’s “thoughtful observation, scientific knowledge, … love for his subject” and “luminous prose.”]

[A positive review, consisting primarily of plot summary and direct quotes from the book. The reviewer comments that “David’s writing is to the tourist industry what the slow food movement is to MacDonalds.”]

[A mainly descriptive review.]

[In this positive review, the reviewer compares Pitt-Brooke to “the brilliant natural history essayist David Quammen” (author of *Monster of God, The Song of the Dodo, The Flight of the Iguana*, and dozens of other books and articles on topics related to ecology, zoology and natural history) and praises him for “teasing out the fascinating details of an ecosystem and then assembling them in a way that leaves you gobsmacked by the amazing interconnectedness of life.”]

[A glowing and thoughtful review that includes such lyrical descriptions of the book as “a polished and elegant piece of contemporary nonfiction,” “One-third outdoorsman’s personal history, one-third naturalist ethics text and one-third Linnaean guidebook,” and
“a wonderfully effective exploration of the natural processes of the sound.” The reviewer favourably compares Pitt-Brooke to Group of Seven painter A.Y. Jackson.]


[A positive review that sees the book’s central theme as the idea that “humanity seems to be the enemy of everything else in nature.” The reviewer praises the book’s “vivid description” and admires Pitt-Brooke's ability to “make the mosses, berries and organisms of decay … as interesting as the whales and bears.”]


[A mainly descriptive review that notes Pitt-Brooke’s “distinctly poetic analysis” and that compares the book’s 12-part structure to that of Barry Lopez’s *Arctic Dreams*.]


[A positive review that begins by providing context for the book by outlining the history of environmental conflict in Clayoquot sound; the reviewer applauds the author's and the book’s “compelling voice,” “depth of … compassion,” “unwillingness to default to simple conclusions,” “sonnet-like symmetry,” and “lyric voice.”]


[A mixed review that admits “[t]here is beauty here,” but which wishes for a “less calendrical” and “more transporting” narrative.]

C. Biographical works about David Pitt-Brooke


[The article includes an interview with Pitt-Brooke and a description of the Writer-in-Residence program co-sponsored by the Mackie Lake House Foundation and the Kalamalka Institute for Working Writers.]


[In a 10-minute interview, Pitt-Brooke discusses life and environmental conditions on the west coast of Vancouver Island and *Chasing Clayoquot*.]


[A report of an interview with Pitt-Brooke, conducted by the author, the main topic of which is *Chasing Clayoquot*. Pitt-Brooke states that his goals in writing the book were to

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“express his great affection for Clayoquot Sound” and “to make the area better known to people the world over.”]


D. Awards, prizes and honours

D1. Levin, Martin, and H.J. Kirchhoff. “The Globe 100.” The Globe and Mail 27 Nov. 2004: D3-. [Chasing Clayoquot is included in this year-end list of “the books our reviewers liked best.”. An excerpt from Trevor Herriot’s review (B12, above) is reproduced on page D9.]

D2. 2001 Science in Society Journalism Award. http://www.sciencewriters.ca/awards/archives2000.html#2001. [“Aloft on Langara” (A2, above) won this prize, awarded annually by the Canadian Science Writers’ Association, in the Natural Resources, Nature, the Environment, and Related Technologies category. The award was accompanied by a $1,000 prize.]