

# An Excerpt from the Verse Novel Manuscript *The Lost Papers of Tom Thomson*

*In South River lives young Gordon.  
He is Tom Wattie's son.  
Says he likes my oil paint sketches —  
I gave him one.*

*Trips from Canoe Lake to South River are worth the effort as it's where I get my wood sketch panels from South River Mercantile at Ard's General Store. I store up with fresh camp supplies. Food and other stuff. Even got my new tent from the Ard store.*

*Usually stay for two days, maybe three if there's going to be a square dance at Orange Hall. Not wanting for a partner when Edna McGrath, Alice Smyth and Evelyn Ard have all asked for a twirl round the floor.*

*Some time passed and later that day  
young Gordon came  
asking for still yet another.  
It seemed so fine he liked  
my sketches, gave a second one.*

*Tom Wattie and I usually spend time at his place on nearby Round Lake or I meet him at his ranger cabin on North Tea Lake. The fishing is always fine. We share good food and campfire stories.*

*When Tom's young boy came by third time  
for still one more oil sketch,  
what of the others I asked him  
in some wonder.  
To this he said, "why Tom, the paint  
in your sketches  
burns smoke in different colours."*

**Retired from teaching high school English, GLENN ARTHUR SWEAZEY lives in Ottawa. His writing cross-pollinates poetry and prose to paint narrative canvases. The verse novel manuscript *The Lost Papers of Tom Thomson* is one of his cross-genre works.**