

LIFESTYLE

# Mississauga author brings latest book to Fan Expo

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By Chris Clay

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A few years back, Lakeview author Courtland Shakespeare headed down to Fan Expo in Toronto to help man a friend's booth.

Shakespeare, who writes under the pen name Will Silver Hastings, decided to bring a few of his books and stories along with him. It was a successful foray for the author who said business was "brisk" as his science fiction-based works clearly appealed to the crowd there to check out all the latest in comics, games, sci-fi, horror and anime.

This year, Shakespeare is heading back to Fan Expo and has his own booth, A405. He's also bringing along his latest book, *Robo Divine: Techno*

*Tales from the Distal Axis of Tomorrow.*

The book is a collection of 21 short stories. It includes stories of autonomous automobile hackers (which turned out to be prescient with news reports this summer about hackers being able to take control of cars remotely) among others.

The titular story *Robo Divine* is about an island filled with self-aware robots who are willing to barter and trade tech with humans. The robots also have set up shop on another island that's invisible and the humans aren't even aware that it exists before a sea salvage team unexpectedly discovers it.

Other short stories include *Lemurian Departure*, which features a young woman searching for her father who finds a portal

into ancient worlds. In *Dream Nanobridge*, engineers try to circumvent the greed of multinational corporations who will stop at nothing to get their hands on the new invention.

A self-described "technojunkie" who's influenced by classic literature, Shakespeare says his writing is a look at some of the technological changes that are coming and how society reacts to the rise of technology.

A few years ago, Shakespeare wrote *The Perfect Round*, a humorous story about a highly advanced robot named Kele who falls out of the sky and lands on a golf course. In order to survive, the robot must learn to play the game where perfection is impossible.

He will have copies of his books for sale at Fan Expo.

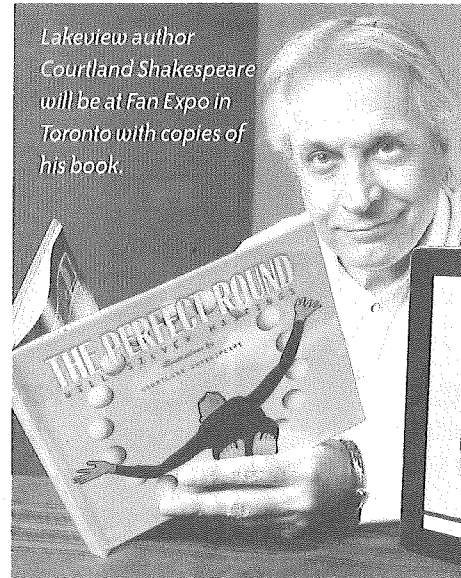
Shakespeare, who's an associate editor

with Metroland Media's *Goodlife Mississauga* magazine, created a few video games in the mid-1990s such as *Jewels of the Oracle*, a collection of animated puzzles, as well as *Jewels 2* and *Forever Worlds*.

But games take a lot of time and work from a number of people and often, when the software or system they were designed for become obsolete, the games become unplayable.

That's not the case with books, said the author, who's influenced by novelists such as Thomas Pynchon and Malcolm Lowry.

Fan Expo opens today and continues until Sunday at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. For more on the author, visit [courtlandshakespeare.com](http://courtlandshakespeare.com).



Lakeview author Courtland Shakespeare will be at Fan Expo in Toronto with copies of his book.