

Lukowich embarks on writing career

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Ed Lukowich and Sagan Jeffries are a world champion curler and a new science-fiction author, respectively.

Except that they are actually the same person.

When going through the writing process for his new novel “The Trillionist,” Lukowich, also a two-time Brier champion and Olympic bronze medallist, decided to adopt a pen name in order to distinguish his decorated curling career from his aspirations as a novelist.

“Re-inventing myself into an author was not easy; it was certainly a learning experience for me,” said Lukowich, who was in the city as one of the invited guests for the Lethbridge Entertainment Expo, the inaugural two-day event that wrapped on Sunday at Exhibition Park.

“When you’re a new author, things are slow to develop because there’s so many books out nowadays. I’ve had the ideas waiting to get out and now the writing technique has come to me as well.”

Lukowich said he has always enjoyed the science fiction genre, as he grew up reading sci-fi books as well as non-fiction science books.

For his pen name, Lukowich took the first name Sagan from his hero, Carl Sagan, who wrote “Contact” and was a well-known astronomer, astrophysicist, cosmologist and science communicator.

“He really started to make me think about the universe a lot,” Lukowich said.

“For some reason, the big bang never struck me as a thing that really should have happened or the right way the universe came to be. And so I started to develop my own theories. I have our universe being much, much older.”

When he saw a lack of quality sci-fi content in the early 1990s, he began writing ideas down but didn’t have to pursue it further as he was busy with his post-athlete career as a curling commentator and coach.

For “The Trillionist,” Lukowich tells the story of a genius inventor and futurist who must stand before a judge and jury to plead for the lives of millions of people who have been placed in mortal jeopardy due to his actions.

Lukowich also has another book coming out next month called “Sagan Jeffries’ Universe Theories.”

“That one is the one where I’m either going to be respected as ‘OK, a good new theory,’ or maybe a little bit is alright, or I’m crazy,” Lukowich said.

“So I’m taking a chance on this. That’s why I decided to do a novel first, because I wanted to introduce the ideas kind of in a soft manner rather than just coming out saying this is it. Eventually, I have to come out and say this is my theory. It’s either right or wrong.”

Lukowich has also written three curling instructional books and a coffee table book under his real name.