“Rollback gets my vote as SF novel of the year; it’s a joy to read.”

Toronto SETI researcher Sarah Halifax and her husband Don, both 87, have been happily married for 60 years. A wealthy industrialist offers Sarah a rollback — a new and hugely expensive rejuvenation procedure that can make her physically 25 again. She refuses unless her husband is given the same treatment. The industrialist agrees, and the procedure works for Don, but tragically fails for Sarah.

Rollback deals with the impact their suddenly huge age disparity has on their marriage … while Sarah races to decode an alien radio transmission in the short time she has left to live.

The novel explores ethics and morals on human and cosmic scales. Analog Science Fiction and Fact, the world’s top-selling SF magazine, declares, “Rollback is a thoroughly engaging story, with some of the most memorable people you’ll ever meet.”

Rollback is published by Tor Books, New York (and distributed in Canada by H.B. Fenn and Company), and is a Main Selection of Doubleday’s Science Fiction Book Club.
Mindscan wins Campbell

Rob is now one of only seven writers in history — and the only Canadian — to win all three of the world’s top awards for best science-fiction novel of the year:

The Hugo (SF’s “people’s choice” award, which he won for Hominids);

The Nebula (the field’s “academy award,” which he received from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America for The Terminal Experiment);

And now the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, SF’s major juried award, bestowed by academics, which he won recently for Mindscan.

The other winners of all three awards are David Brin, Arthur C. Clarke, Joe Haldeman, Frederik Pohl, Kim Stanley Robinson, and Connie Willis. Rob received the Campbell Memorial Award at a gala banquet at the J.Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction at the University of Kansas.

Tour includes Library of Congress

The release of Rollback will be supported by an extensive book tour in April and May. Starting with the public launch party on April 14 at 3:00 p.m. at Toronto’s Bakka-Phoenix Books (where Rob worked in 1982), Rob will visit 15 cities in the United States and Canada, and then conclude the tour with a stop in cyberspace, appearing in Second Life, the world’s largest online virtual-reality community.

Highlights of the tour include giving a talk at The Library of Congress in Washington; presenting the Mary Donaldson Memorial Lecture at the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Library Association; giving a commencement address at Laurentian University (where Rob is receiving an honorary doctorate); and signing at BookExpo Canada.

And, of course, the tour features lots of bookstore appearances in cities including Vancouver, Denver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Albany, Orlando, and many more. See the full tour itinerary at sfwriter.com/tour.htm.