



BEAVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Celebrating our Tenth Year

PROGRAMS FOR FALL 2011 and WINTER/SPRING 2012

AT

L. E. SHORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
183 Bruce Street South
Thornbury
(519-599-3681)

TWO DAY COSMOLOGY COURSE

Tuesday, September 27 and Wednesday, September 28, 2011
10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Facilitator: Sylvia A. Verde

The cost is \$35.00 for the two-day course
Minimum number of participants: 30

**Cosmology: Once upon a time...The stories we tell shape
who we are and who we become.**

In this time of global climate change, economic collapse, crisis of purpose in churches and government, we need a cosmology to awaken our imaginations and guide us into a vibrant way of living on this planet. Come and join in a stimulating conversation on some of the big questions: Where do we come from? How did we get here? Who are we? Why are we here? Explore the cosmologies (origin stories) that have shaped us and the emerging cosmology derived from the scientific story of our origins.

Through the thought and vision of Thomas Berry, Brian Swimme, and others, we will explore what it means to be human. We will consider some of the challenges and opportunities to 'reinvent the human as a viable species'.

We will ponder the spiritual dimension of the environmental crisis and, together, consider possible mutually enhancing responses we can take for living vibrantly within the Earth community.

Sylvia Verde

Teacher, chaplain, liturgical musician, retreat facilitator, and lifelong learner, Sylvia recently completed an M.A. in Culture and Spirituality through the Sophia Center, Holy Names University, Oakland, CA.

SEXUALITY AND GENDER IN CANADA: 1870-1970
Tuesday, October 18 to Tuesday, November 22, 2011
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Presenter: Dr. Chris O'Shea,
History, University of Guelph

Tuesday, October 18:
Courtship in Victorian Canada

An examination of the changing nature of courtship in the mid to late nineteenth century in the Canadian context. The lecture looks at how the rules of courtship were transformed during this period to produce patterns that we would recognize as modern dating. A key question here is the social power of women and how "youth culture" was able to consistently remake the "rules" to suit the needs of each generation.

Tuesday, October 25:
Victorian Doctors and the Medicalization of Sexuality

As the social authority of physicians expanded in the late nineteenth century both men and women increasingly came under the scrutiny of doctors who were seeking to establish the "norms" of Victorian society. This was of particular importance for the experience of women who were perceived as being susceptible to a range of physical and mental diseases simply due to their gender.

**Tuesday, November 1:
Men of the Oscar Wilde Type: Social Construction of the “Modern”
Homosexual**

In 1895 the trial of Oscar Wilde for homosexuality forced the discussion of homosexuality into the public realm. However, doctors particularly within the new field of psychiatry had been re-defining and contesting the meaning of “sexual inversion” since the 1870s. Of particular importance was the medical perception that homosexuality was an acquired “perversity” that could be treated.

**Tuesday, November 8:
The Flapper: Image and Imagination in the 1920s**

Often perceived as marking the “first” sexual revolution, women’s social roles were fundamentally transformed by the experience of the First World War and by the perceived social liberalization of the 1920s. While the image of the Flapper still resonates within the public imagination, in reality women’s “liberation” during this decade remained limited.

**Tuesday, November 15:
Women, Gender Roles and the Second World War**

The lecture begins with an examination of how women’s participation in the Second World War in both industry and the military has been interpreted as transforming women’s social roles. However, in the decade following the war, North American society placed a renewed emphasis on reinforcing women’s “natural” domestic role. Rather than the war’s “we can do it” motto, and despite women’s increased participation in the postwar workforce, by the mid-1950s June Cleaver was still being presented as the ideal middle-class woman.

**Tuesday November 22:
Teenage Rebellion: Sexuality and Gender in the 1950s and 1960s**

Beginning with the 1950s concern with the dangers of teenage rebellion and continuing into the 1960’s “sexual revolution”, the lecture explores how youth culture transformed the norms of North American society.

Dr. Christopher D. O'Shea PhD Canadian History, 2003

Chris is a resident of Thornbury where he lives with his wife Sherri (née MacDairmid) and their two children, Sebastian and Tryphena. Chris was raised in Meaford and played football and rugby while attending GBSS. He also read Science Fiction and Fantasy while playing Dungeons and Dragons in order to avoid doing any real work.

He has been teaching regularly at the University of Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier University since 2003. At Guelph he teaches *Sexuality and Gender in History* and *Contemporary Canadian Issues*. At Wilfrid Laurier he teaches the online *Western Civilization* course for the department of history and has taught *Canada in the Global Context* for the Global Studies department. His teaching interests include: Gender and Sexuality, Canadian Social History, Labour History, Twentieth Century International Relations and Western Civilization. Chris skis and snowboards and plays golf. He is also an avid (if mediocre) chess player.

**THE VOYAGES OF ANCIENT CELTS TO NORTH AMERICA
1000 years before the Vikings and 1500 years before Columbus
Tuesday, January 10 to Tuesday, February 14, 2012
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Presenter: Robert Burcher**

**Tuesday, January 10
ROCK ON! Native Rock Art is Where it all Started:**

Spread across the Canadian Shield is an enigmatic pictorial history created by the First Nations' people that challenges us with many possible interpretations. Is the "Celtic Conundrum" answer written on the rock walls of our northern lakes? Then too how did the Thornbury Indian Burial Mound get labelled and then dismissed?

**Tuesday, January 17
Four Thousand years of Celtic History in Two Hours:**

We know about the Celts as Irish, Scottish and Welsh citizens. But where did they originate? Why did they migrate? Then too, what about Saint Brendan, Saint Patrick and Queen B. What was going on 2000 years ago in Europe? Let us look also at the amazing sea-going journeys of the early Celts and how we continue to re-create those marvels.

Tuesday, January 24

Digital History: Fact, Farce and Fiction on the Internet:

What's the deal on all this "new history"? Vikings and the Minnesota Rune Stone; Barry Fell and the Druids of New England; the Welsh speaking natives of North Dakota; and the golden tablets of New York State? Finding your way through the digital fog and the bogus stories of Chinese forts on Cape Breton and the lost tribes of Israel!

Tuesday, January 31

Listen to the Natives: Listen to the Celts:

Looking again at the legends and the myths of the early people on both sides of the pond. Listen to some incredible sounds of 2,000 years ago! Listen to the sound of the Petroglyphs' acoustics.

Tuesday, February 7

The Great Canadian Copper Rush:

What you didn't learn in high school and what you need to know now. Is there proof in the hills? Is there proof in our genes? What can archaeology and science prove (and disprove)?

Tuesday, February 14

The Grand Finale:

. . . and the answer is? What did I find last summer when I walked the villages of Suffolk and Yorkshire England looking for the last battleground of the Celts? What about the search on the shores of the north channel of Lake Huron for a fortified Celtic settlement?

Robert Burcher

Robert Burcher, a local popular and controversial historian, has been proposing for several years that ancient Celts from Ireland came to North America over 2,000 years ago. His theory got started here in Thornbury in the early 1990's with the study and unearthing of the Thornbury Mound. Two decades of study, travel and research have brought him to the outstanding conclusion that YES it is true - Celts were here in the first century A.D. His book about the theory is being considered by publishers during 2011.

Join Robert for a fascinating saga worthy of any CSI crime scene investigation. This lecture series will be an interesting and challenging rethinking of many levels of history. Robert is an accomplished public speaker, amateur archaeologist and also a professional photographer. From these fields of endeavor spring a wonderful presentation style mixed with many images from his travels.

IMPRESSIONISM: THE BIG PICTURE
Tuesday, March 20, 2012 to Tuesday, April 24, 2012
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Presenter: Judy Thomson

Time and again, Manet, Monet, Degas and their associates submitted works to the French Académie, only to have them rejected and stamped with a large red R on the painting's frame. No one wanted their "impressions" of contemporary nineteenth century life. Who could understand their habit of painting outdoors? Learn how they overcame ridicule, humiliation and poverty, finally emerging as exponents of Impressionism, a ground-breaking style which swept aside established traditions of painting. From France to the rest of Europe, to America and Canada, this new painting style attracted practitioners and admirers alike. Follow this fascinating story in six parts.

Tuesday, March 20
Paris 1860 -- Art Centre of the World

The long-established Académie des Beaux Arts rules French art. Learn about this stranglehold, and about the first attempts to break it. Artists rejected by the Académie are allowed to hold an alternative exhibition. Is this a good or bad idea? Manet, Whistler, Pissarro exhibit here.

Tuesday, March 27
The Struggle for Acceptance

With the help of Nadar and others, Independent salons offer alternatives to the Académie. But recognition doesn't come easily! Discussions of theories of colour and painting techniques occupy the cafe scene. Degas, Pissarro, Manet, Cezanne, Monet participate.

Tuesday, April 3

What Makes a Painting “Impressionist”?

An in-depth analysis of the style, using well-known works as examples, especially Monet’s *Impression Sunrise*, which started it all.

Tuesday, April 10

What Comes Next? Has the Avant Garde Arrived?

A look at the development of Impressionism, both in France and in the rest of Europe. The relationship between Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism, Expressionism and Cubism. We’re in the modern world.

Tuesday, April 17

Americans in Paris

Students converge on Paris. Exhibitions come to American cities. Collectors and patrons give support. A look at the works of American Impressionists, both known and unknown: Mary Cassatt, John Singer Sargent, Childe Hassam & Maurice Prendergast .

Tuesday, April 24

The Impressionist Style In Canada

Not to be outdone, Canadian artists embrace the impressionist style. Helen McNicoll and Laura Muntz join Mary Cassatt in painting the domestic scene. William Brymner, Clarence Gagnon and J.W. Maurice explore the style. And Group of Seven painters Thomson, Jackson, Harris, Lismer and MacDonald experiment with impressionist principles.

Judy Thomson

Judy Thomson is a graduate of the University of Toronto, Judy taught art history and writing at Georgian College for 19 years, and was recognized with the faculty Award for Teaching. In 2004, she was appointed Professor Emeritus of the college. Judy has previously presented lecture series for BVALL on European Art History and the History of Canadian Art, and with husband Ken, a series about their year in China.

**BEAVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**

Our Beginnings and Purpose:

A Lifelong Learning Association was formed in 2001 for the Beaver Valley and surrounding area.

The purpose of the Association is to provide opportunities for people to gain knowledge, expand horizons, stimulate a search for meaning, and fulfill the desire for lifelong learning. We hope to accomplish this by organizing lecture series and workshops throughout the year, led by scholars and professionals in their field of study.

Our Location:

We are an association without a permanent home. Presently, lectures are held at:

L. E. Shore Memorial Library
183 Bruce Street South
Thornbury (Telephone 519-599-3681)

Our Membership:

Our organization is self-supporting and is funded entirely by annual memberships and registration fees.

There are no restrictions on membership. Any person who pays annual dues is a member of the Association for that year. (Our year runs from September 1 to August 31). Members will receive advance notice via e-mail of upcoming courses and seminars.

Our organization is run by volunteers. We are open to others who could help accomplish the goals of the Beaver Valley Association for Lifelong Learning.

You are invited to join us.

For further information contact
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