

**LITTLE FICTIONS: EXPLORING  
THE SHORT STORY**

**Presenter: Gary Draper**

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 to  
Tuesday, November 23, 2010  
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Though it came into its own in the nineteenth century, the short story is a literary form with ancient roots. And in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, its brevity makes it an ideal form for busy or distracted readers. This course will look at the backgrounds to the short story, some of its early classics, and then look at a representative sampling of the best British, American, and Canadian stories. We will close with a look at authors from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Selections will be drawn from a wide range of writers both familiar and (I hope) new, and will range from Sir Walter Scott and Anton Chekhov to Alice Munro and Annabel Lyon.

**Tuesday, October 19**

Antecedents and early works: exploring the backgrounds to and beginnings of the short story form by such early writers as Poe and Conrad.

**Tuesday, October 26**

(Mostly) British classics: sampling the best of English, Irish, and Commonwealth short fiction, including Joyce and Mansfield.

**Tuesday, November 2**

American stories: looking at some of the masters of the form among U.S. writers, from James and Hemingway to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Tuesday, November 9**

Canadian voices: considering the form as practiced here at home, by such short-story stars as Morley Callaghan and Alice Munro.

**Tuesday, November 16**

Contemporary short fiction: examining some of the best recent practitioners of the form, from Canada, Britain, and the U.S., from the 1990s till now.

**Tuesday, November 23**

Multicultural voices: looking outside the British/North American orbit at modern writers from a variety of national and cultural backgrounds.

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*Gary Draper has been a librarian, a university professor, an editor, and a book-reviewer. He continues to love books, and has--both before and since his retirement--taught a variety of courses to third-age learning groups in southern Ontario*

**"SILENTS, PLEASE"**

**A look at silent film - its power and continuing influence**

**Presenter: Ken Thomson**

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 to  
Tuesday, February 15, 2011  
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

**Tuesday, January 11**

How it all came about - Photography becomes moving pictures: from the first experiments to exploring the possibilities in a new art form. Learn about the innovators: their ideas, their experiments. Eadweard Muybridge, Thomas Edison, the Lumiere brothers, Pathe Studio, Thomas Ince, Edwin S. Porter, Georges Melies.

**Tuesday, January 18**

D.W. Griffith, Father of Film: A look at his famous films- Birth of a Nation (1915) and Intolerance (1916) - the development of film

techniques and the language of film along with the controversy of subject and its treatment.

**Tuesday, January 25**

The genius of Charlie Chaplin - the first film star: His development of his character the Tramp. Examples from his early and late work. Chaplin as the consummate visual comedian.

**Tuesday, February 1**

German Film: Expressionism in the work of F. W. Murnau's Nosferatau, (1921) and The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari of Robert Wiene (1919). An analysis of their pioneering exploration in imagery and the emotional impact of camera angle and the influence on horror film and film noir.

**Tuesday, February 8**

Fritz Lang's Metropolis (1927): its strange conflicting message and bold futuristic vision, its refined film technique, German film at its height. From the UFA group made at the famous Babelsberg Studio. German expressionistic influences can be found throughout to give us a new genre - science fiction. This film became the model for others to follow.

**Tuesday, February 15**

Eisenstein's The Battleship Potemkin (1925): Focus on the famous Odessa steps sequence from Potemkin. A look at Eisenstein's theories in his text "Film Form and Film Sense", a reference also to Ivan The Terrible (1944). A discussion of his theory of montage - "shock attraction" editing.

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*Before retirement Ken Thomson was Head of English at West Hill Secondary School in Owen Sound, where he pioneered Mass Media Studies, and television production. Ken has taught Film History, 16mm film production and*

*desktop publishing. His interest in film early on led to being involved with a number of film societies as a presenter. He organized and presented a session on film and another on television comedy during a 6 week session for BALL (Owen Sound) in Media In The Modern Age. Some of his students have gone on to become film-makers and producers.*

*You may remember Ken Thomson, who with his wife, Judy, presented a 6 week session on China for BVALL in 2007.*

**BIRDS IN OUR LIVES**

**Presenter: Peter Middleton**

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 to  
Tuesday, April 26, 2011  
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

**Tuesday, March 22, 2011  
A World of Birds**

Approximately 10,000 species of birds inhabit the planet today. They occupy space that overlaps human experience in sight, sound and activity. This session will trace the evolutionary thread of birds, from its earliest simple beginnings, to become the rich tapestry of species that we know today. It is thread that reaches back millennia to times before humans walked the earth. The session will also introduce the major themes that will become the foci for the balance of the series.

**Tuesday, March 29  
Birds and Human Culture**

Birds have, since the dawn of humanity, fed, clothed, inspired and enriched human existence. They have become the subject of mythologies, artistic expression, cultural identity, music and literature. This session will look at the age-old relationship between ourselves and birds: from Mozart to Anne Murray, from Picasso to Bateman, from Aboriginal origin stories to Genesis, humans

have had an intimate and creative connection with birds.

**Tuesday, April 5  
The Lives of Birds**

From the polar caps of Arctic and the Antarctic, to the arid oven of the Atacama desert, from the remote Pacific islands to the steamy heartland of Amazonia, there are birds. They represent the most widely distributed vertebrates on the planet. This distribution has required remarkable adaptations, both physical and behavioural, to meet the requirements of constantly changing environment. How birds have adapted, to become the successful species we know today, is the subject of this session.

**Tuesday, April 12  
What of the Future?**

As human populations continue to explode, the impact of our species upon the planet's ecology is increasingly one of change, devastation and loss. 1,227 species, or approximately 12% of the world's 10,000 species are currently threatened. That number continues to grow. At the same time remarkable new research techniques are shedding light on bird ecology and the requirements for species' survival. The findings are key to the future conservation initiatives and ultimately the very existence of birds into the future.

**Tuesday, April 19  
Birdwatching**

Birdwatching is recognized as one of the fastest growing recreational hobbies in North America. It provides a delightful way to interact with the natural world at a level of one's own choosing. Birds in the garden, or those in the outback of Australia engage birders around the world. This session will look at the basic equipment, field guides and observation skills required to enjoy the pursuit to the full. It will

also outline opportunities to become involved in projects to monitor bird populations and behaviours.

**Tuesday, April 26  
Avian Celebrations**

The final session of the series will review and explore aspects of birdlife, not covered in previous sessions. In doing so, the session will serve to celebrate the beauty, complexity and mystery of birds. It will also ring home the message of negative human impacts on the planet and the species that live on it. Birds have deeply enriched human experience since time immemorial. Do we value them now only as "canaries in the mine" of global environmental destruction? What will be lost and do we care? This concluding session will celebrate what is and challenge us all to ensure that what we have cherished is there for generations yet to come.

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*Peter is a retired outdoor education teacher and principal. In addition to his teaching, he has guided small groups, over the past thirty-five years, to many areas of the globe, to observe birds, animals and plants and interpret the natural world.*

*Throughout his life, Peter has had an overarching interest in birds. His passion for feathered creatures began as a young boy in northeast Scotland, and continued to develop, in Canada, when his family immigrated in 1952. He is a respected field ornithologist who, over the years, has contributed to many monitoring and conservation projects. Currently he is the President of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists.*

**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;**

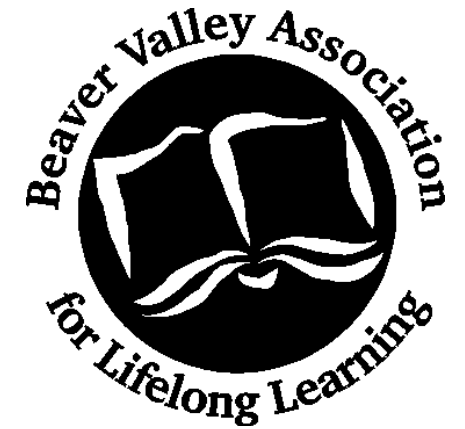
Our organization is self-supporting and is funded entirely by annual memberships and registration fees.

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  
Nancy at 519-599-7746  
or e-mail [dngreen@bmts.com](mailto:dngreen@bmts.com)



**PROGRAMS FOR  
FALL 2010 and  
WINTER/SPRING 2011**

AT

**L. E. SHORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
183 Bruce Street South  
Thornbury  
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