

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY LIBRARY NEWS

APRIL 2021

TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca | 519-599-3681



Remembering the Beaver Valley Rat Race in a New Online Collection

Over the past year it has been hard to visit museums in person. While we all prepare to re-enter lockdowns, many virtual options have been made available! Museum staff have been hard at work creating and updating our on-line exhibits. Our newest exhibit launching this month is the "Beaver River Rat Race".

In the spring of 1957, in what was then Collingwood Township, the community saw two or three peculiar home-made looking "vessels" launched in Heathcote. When the "captains" of these boats completed their journey in Clarksburg, they emerged looking like drowned rats. This adventure gave life to the Beaver River Rat Race, which would continue for over two more decades. Competitors built their "vessels" from a wide range of materials, and in a variety of entertaining styles. As reflected in the 1964 poster states "River Rats: Anything that Floats". Crowds would gather along the shores of Heathcote and Slabtown to watch the floating creations take on the river bends, dips and currents. Over time the risks became too much, and the races stopped. Yet many memories were made, and stories cherished of a "different time".

To learn more about this local event or to add to its memory check out our new [on-line exhibit](#). You can view pieces from the Museum's archival collection as well as from the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club archives. We have also created a section of the exhibit where you can add your own memories of the Beaver River Rat Race!



This image and more - coming soon to the BVRR Exhibit

Let's Get "March" Break Started



Magical Science Madness

April Break 2021 is now full, with names being added to the waitlist for kits. You may not be able to register to get a kit, but you can gather the supplies and join us on [YouTube](#) as we do the experiments together.

Another awesome program happening through April is the month long Pictures & Words Contest. This year, Haiku poems are the poetic theme: 3 lined poems of 5 syllables, the second line has 7, and the third has 5 again. This is open to all ages!

Winners of the Haiku Pictures & Words Contest will be featured in a [Bibioboard](#) exhibit and win a prize from a local small business! Submit your haiku to libraryprograms@thebluemountains.ca by April 30th.



This Month In the Gallery

Exhibit Launch: *The Imagination Studio Presents Her Young, Inspired Oil Painters*

Ashley Green of The Imagination Studio has curated 9 local youth artists from her studio. These exhibitors range from 10 to 17 years old, and their talent is unparalleled. Visit online and view the future of arts in The Blue Mountains, and while you're looking, support the artists by purchasing a piece.



2021 Juried Art Show

Calling All Artists! The [registration portal](#) is now open and closes April 30 for our Juried Show 2021. Categories include 2D, 3D, and Photography in Adult and Youth. For more information, visit [Applying to Exhibit](#).

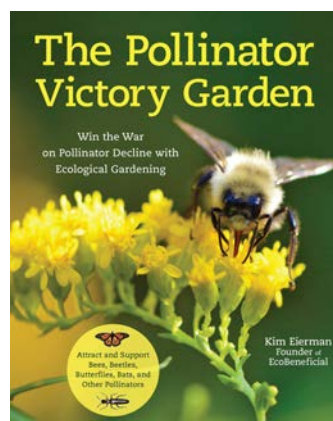
ACC Presents: Music as Sound

Due to the power outage this program has been moved to April 8. If you were registered, your login is still active. Spaces are still available. [Register online](#).

ACC Presents: Wildflowers of the Beaver Valley Area

Following the resounding success of January's Waterfalls of the Beaver Valley Area, Stew Hilts will be bringing us a fresh look at our region once again. Stay tuned for more information on our [Events Calendar](#).

Gardening Bookshelf



We've got the resources you need to start planning your gardens!

[Pollinator Victory Garden](#) Plan an ecological garden that attracts bees, beetles and butterflies and other pollinators.

[Canadian Gardener's Guide](#) Native plants, fruit and vegetables for a short growing season and other topics for our climate.

[Garden Design Master Class](#) Advice from 100 acclaimed gardeners on practical considerations and style concerns.

[Growing Weed in the Garden](#) From seed selection to harvest, as well as drying, curing and storing, and making tincture and oils.

[The GrowVeg Guide to Easy Gardening](#) (in eBook) An informative and entertaining guide for the novice veggie gardener. See all [Gardening eBooks on hoopla](#).

Did you know that OverDrive/Libby now has eMagazines? There are over 200 home and garden magazines and current and back issues are always available – no holds. The classic magazine [Horticulture](#) is one of many. This month's issue features a spring checklist of what to do in the garden. See [What's Available Now in Gardening eMags and eBooks](#).

Our collection of digital and print gardening books is extensive. [See them all in our catalogue](#). To browse in person, visit one of our branches and ask for the Gardening Books, aka the 635's!

WEEKLY PROGRAMS



Seniors Exercise

Mondays | 10:00am

BMPL [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) | Drop-in

Improve your health and fitness with light aerobic exercises and stretches. Exercises can be done sitting or standing, no matter your ability.

Museum From Home

Mondays | 12:30pm

CHD [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) | Drop-In

Start your week with highlights and the history of items in the Craigeleith Heritage Depot's Museum collection.



Book Review

Tuesdays | 10:00am

BMPL [Facebook](#) | Drop-in

Looking for a new read? Tune in to our Facebook page each Tuesday morning for a recommendation from our staff!



Cluesday Tuesday

Tuesdays | 12:30pm

CHD [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) | Drop-in

Solve some mysteries or test your knowledge with photos and items from the Craigeleith Heritage Depot archives collection to decipher, discover and delight!



Kids Clubhouse

Tuesdays | 4:30pm

BMPL [YouTube](#) | Registration

Interactive activities kits for registered participants.

Follow along to a video shared on YouTube.



Wired Wednesday

Wednesdays | 1:00pm

BMPL [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) | Drop-in

Join Ashley on our Facebook page for virtual tech help. She will discuss a different Library resource or tech topic every week and provide tech help.

Bedtime Story Time

Wednesdays | 7:00pm

BMPL [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) | Drop-in

These quiet stories and rhymes will help get your family ready for bed. Wear your PJs and bring your teddy bear.

Local Fact or Fiction

Thursdays | 12:00pm

CHD [Facebook](#) & BMPL [Instagram](#) | Drop-In

Every week take a crack at trying to guess what's true and what's not local edition. Learn some new things or check your own knowledge on local history!

Digital Book Club

Thursdays | 1:00pm

BMPL [Facebook](#) | Drop-in

Each week features a new book discussion topic to hear your thoughts on books.



Virtual Story Time

Fridays | 11:00am

BMPL [Facebook](#) | Drop-in

Support your young children develop a love of reading. Songs, rhymes and stories are shared. Suitable for children of all ages, stages and abilities.



Favourite Fossils

Fridays | 5:00pm

CHD [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) | Drop-in

Explore the prehistoric past with fossils from the Craigeleith Heritage Depot!



Trivia Game Night

Fridays | 7:00pm

BMPL [Facebook](#) & [Event Calendar](#) | Drop-in

New weekly Trivia themes posted every Friday for you to enjoy all week long! Get the link on our Facebook page or Event Calendar.



Photo Feature

Saturdays | 11:30am

BMPL [Instagram](#) | Drop-in

Learn about the history of photography in the Blue Mountains and see highlights from the Craigeleith Heritage Depot archival museum collections.




Monthly Scavenger Hunts

L.E. Shore & Craigeleith Heritage Depot | Drop-in

Each month a new outdoor scavenger hunt will go up on the windows of each building! Test your eyes and see if you can find all the hidden items!





CREATOR SPACE

Mobile Digital Arts Lab

Learn more about digital design. New online classes are posted on our [Event Calendar](#).



SPECIAL THIS MONTH



Author Talk with Kate Hilton

April 6 | 7:00pm

BMPL Zoom | [Registration](#)

Kate Hilton will share insights and inspiration for her most recent novel "Better Luck Next Time". This funny, banter-filled novel is an excellent character-driven engaging novel that focuses on a family redefining happiness.

Free Tax Clinic

April 8 & 12 | All Day

BMPL Zoom | [Registration](#)

Get your taxes done by a registered CVITP volunteer. Must meet eligibility criteria and by appointment only.



Teen Group

April 8 | 5:00pm

BMPL Zoom | [Registration](#)

Join the Teen Group and have your say on Teen programs and services, become involved in your community, and meet new friends!

Youth Mindfulness Series:

Building Confidence and Transforming Energy

April 9 | 7:00pm

[YouTube](#) | Drop-in

Learn the tools and techniques that will help you find and connect with your inner self, self-esteem and your self-confidence.



Author Talk with Robert Burcher

April 13 | 7:00pm

BMPL Zoom | [Registration](#)

Local photographer and historian, Robert Burcher, will be discussing John Muir and his most recent book.

Through The Telescope

April 15 | 8:00pm

BMPL Zoom | [Registration](#)

Springtime in The Blue Mountains means it is galaxy season, and there are galaxies galore in our skies right now. Join Ian Wheelband of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada as we share the night sky through the telescope.



Youth Mindfulness Series:

Breathing/ Meditation/ Awareness & Connection

April 16 | 7:00pm

[YouTube](#) | Drop-in

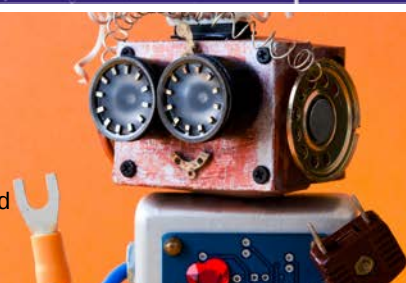
Learn the tools and techniques that will help you utilize your breathing to cultivate mindfulness, focus and help you become present and aware.

TwAG

April 22 | 7:00pm

BMPL Zoom | [Registration](#)

Monthly meetings feature an interactive MakerKit where tweens make, explore and lead in this tween-led program.



Youth Mindfulness Series:

Focus

April 23 | 7:00pm

[YouTube](#) | Drop-in

Understanding how the breath can help keep you focused in the present, and how breath exhalation will help you release your everyday stressors.



Pelvic Floor Health

April 29 | 7:00pm

BMPL Zoom | [Registration](#)

Learn about the importance of keeping your pelvic floor strong with Rose Wilson, Physiotherapist, as she shares her expertise. It's so much more than kegels!



Youth Mindfulness Series: Sound Healing, Visualization, & Meditation

April 30 | 7:00pm

[YouTube](#) | Drop-in

Learn about the many benefits of visual meditation and sound healing.



Picture & Words: Haiku Poetry Contest

Contest runs through April 1 - 30th 2021

Submit your very own Haiku poem to us, with a photo, drawing, or painting that reflects your Haiku poem. Haikus are super fun and creative poems to write. For more info, visit our [Event Calendar](#).



For more information on these programs, visit our [Event Calendar](#) on our website.

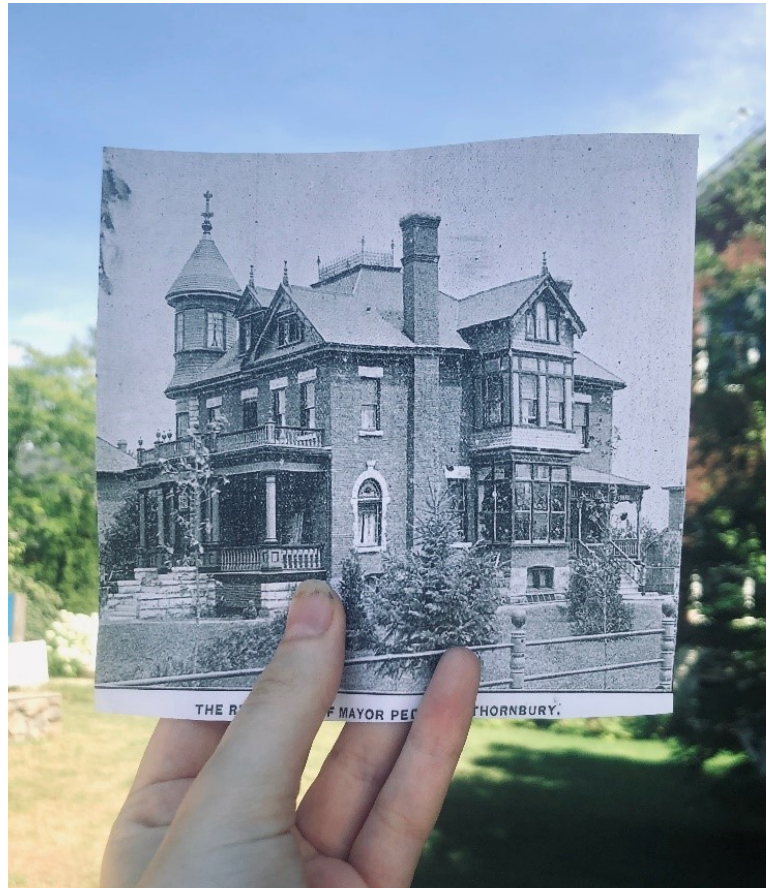
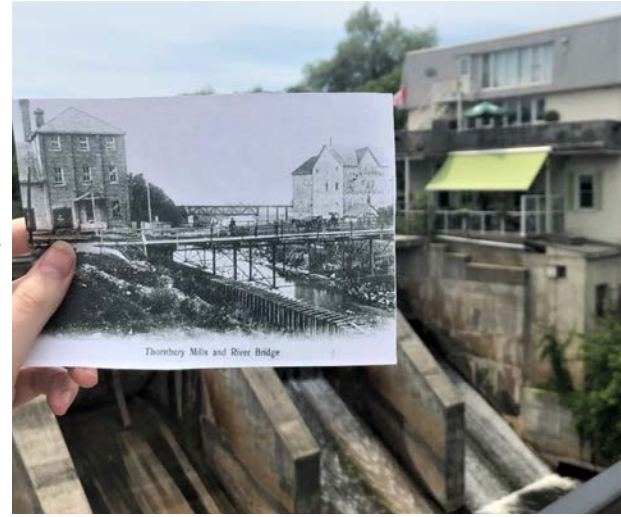


Archives Awareness Week:

Research Your House

April 5th to 9th, 2021 is Archives Awareness Week in Ontario. This year the Craigleith Heritage Depot encourages you to explore some helpful archival resources available to you virtually, 24/7. Have you ever wondered who has lived in your house? Have you been curious to know the history of the big brick building down the street?

"How to Research your Home" is a new resource created by Museum staff to help you explore the history of a house and/or building while on your research journey. Included are: Tips before you start, such as staying organized and setting a goal; First Steps, such as talking to neighbours and learning about the architectural style; Online Research Steps, such as checking to see if your house is registered as a historic place; Other Steps in your Local Area, such as collecting your legal deeds, checking county atlases, and How to Use the Land Records Portal. You can find this document in the Museum's Collections and Research webpage. For other helpful, local, online resources for building history, check out the [Local History resources](#) listed on the Blue Mountains Public Library's Virtual Branch.



Have You Filed Your Taxes?

Do you have modest income and a simple tax return? Get your taxes done at a Free Tax Clinic. This is your last chance to utilize the volunteer service at the library. Call or email today to register for an appointment. Appointments are booking for April 12, 2021.

For more information on eligibility, call or visit our [website](#).

[Historypin](#) is another new, fun website that allows people to pin images old and new, and video and audio recordings to a Google map of the world. You can find a growing collection of local images recently pinned.

There is also a video series on the [BMPL YouTube channel](#) called "[Building History](#)" that summarizes the history of 13 buildings in the Blue Mountains in under 2 minutes. For other archival gems online, keep your eyes on the [Craigleith Heritage Depot Facebook](#) page, where weekly historical photos are posted as part of #MuseumFromHome Mondays, Historical Fact or Fiction, and Cluesday Tuesdays. You never know what you'll find! And of course, remember to share your house research with the Craigleith Heritage Depot afterwards – future researchers will thank you!

Youth Mindfulness Series

BMPL and Inner Yogies studio have partnered together to bring you a Youth Mindfulness mini-series beginning Friday, April 9th at 7:00pm on The Blue Mountains Public Library [YouTube channel](#). Mindfulness means bringing attention to the present exactly how it is, and this program will focus on well-being through yoga, meditation, breathing exercises, connection, and awareness. It will be a four-part mini-series occurring on the following dates:

- April 9: Building Confidence and Transforming Energy
- April 16: Breathing/Meditation/Awareness and Connection
- April 23: Focus
- April 30: Sound Healing, Visualization, and Meditation

No registration needed. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smart phone to participate and a comfortable place to rest. For more information, visit our [Youth Health and Wellness page](#).

Board Corner

The Board will not be holding the Regular Board Meeting on April 15th. Instead we are meeting in Closed Session for planning discussions on identifying Key Supporters: individuals, groups and organizations; as well as how to best work within our community to conduct our consultation process for the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. In the best of times, representative community consultation can be difficult to achieve. We do not want to have the ongoing pandemic negatively impact our community's voice and input on our Strategic Planning process. A report will come to the May Board Meeting on early stages of this process.

Additionally, the Board is happy to see how our staff have jumped in and tried to be a solution for so many having difficulties registering for their COVID-19 Vaccinations. If you are having difficulties registering, need help with the online system, or need your summons printed; your BMPL is here to help. Call today and let our staff be your technical assistant as we all work to become a fully vaccinated community.

Service Updates

As our province returns to a lockdown for the month of April, your BMPL facilities will continue to provide services in a safe, no-contact manner through our curbside pickup. Additionally, we will have staff manning our phones in order to better assist with placing holds, Inter-Library Loans, and of course to assist any community member with their registration in the online provincial vaccine program

Congrats on Retirement

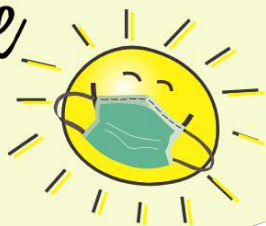
Hélène Schofield, a veteran of BMPL, retired at the end of March. She began with us as a volunteer in 2005 and took a



position in 2013. Hélène's Staff Picks are some of the most popular, and we are happy to announce Hélène has agreed to return to BMPL as a volunteer, and will be continuing to provide staff picks

and book reviews for our blog. Congratulations to Hélène!

Staying Home Stories



BMPL seeks your pictures, videos, audio & stories for an online exhibit to highlight our community's experiences in 2020-21

New Skills in Action

Signs of the Times

Connecting Creatively & more!

Watch for a link coming soon to the library website!

Our **Virtual Branch** is still open 24/7 and **Curbside Pickup** at L.E. Shore & Craigleith Heritage Depot is available.

Have a question? We're here for you!
519-599-3681 | LibraryInfo@TheBlueMountains.ca
www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca



Curbside Pickup has been re-established during the April Provincial Lockdown

L.E. Shore Library
173 Bruce St. S., Thornbury
LibraryInfo@TheBlueMountains.ca

Curbside Pickup Hours
Tues / Thu: 11am-6pm
Wed / Fri: 12pm-5pm
Sat: 10am-2pm

Craigleith Heritage Depot
113 Lakeshore Rd. E., Blue Mountains
Depot@TheBlueMountains.ca

Curbside Pickup Hours
Sun / Tues / Thu: 12pm-4pm
Wed: 4:30pm-7:30pm