

Off the Shelf

Your Guide to Programs and Services at the Waterloo Public Library



Fall 2008 | Issue 16

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Arthur Currie's Greatest Victory: The Battle for Hill 70, August 1917

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2008

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Location: Main Library, Auditorium

Registration: Not required

We are pleased to welcome back Professor Mike Bechthold for his annual Remembrance Day presentation and discussion.

Prof. Bechthold is the Communications Director at the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, the managing editor of *Canadian Military History Magazine* and a military history professor at Wilfrid Laurier University.

The Remembrance Day program is always popular. Come early to get a good seat!

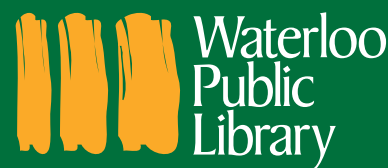
Kitchener and Waterloo Libraries Set to Offer New Service Using Live Chat Technology

Kitchener Public Library and Waterloo Public Library have joined a province-wide initiative that uses real-time chat technology to connect members of the public with experienced librarians who can help find authoritative online information on a broad range of topics, all without charge.

The initiative, which is called **askON**, was launched as a pilot service with 10 libraries in January 2008 and has now grown to include 22 public libraries, 9 college libraries and 5 university libraries located throughout Ontario. Kitchener and Waterloo are set to come live with the service in September.

Continued on page 11...

a place to grow



MISSION

The Waterloo Public Library is a place to grow! Through a team of friendly, knowledgeable and well trained staff, volunteers and trustees, WPL offers people of all ages innovative lifelong learning and leisure opportunities.

Library Board Members

Tim Jackson, Chair
Bob Ernest, Vice-Chair
Tom Bishop
Dave Caputo
Barbara Dembek
Raegan Little
Ian McLean, Councillor
Lynne Paquette
Karen Scian, Councillor
Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian
and Secretary-Treasurer to the Board

We're Going Green!

Waterloo Public Library is pleased to announce that *Off the Shelf* is now printed on a 100% post-consumer fibre paper, which means that not one tree was harmed in the making of the newsletter!



Celebrate Ontario Public Library Week by travelling to distant libraries of the world!



Would you borrow a book from a camel?
Or pay your late fines to a donkey?
Would you walk a mile through the jungle, or across a mountain, to read a book?

Thousands of men, women and children do every day, with the help of unusual mobile and rural libraries!

Please join the Waterloo Public Library and CTV producer Paul Francescutti on Saturday, October 25, as we celebrate Ontario Public Library Week with a screening of *Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World* at the Main Library, at 1:00pm. The screening will be followed by a discussion led by Paul about the making of the documentary.

Remote Access is the story of four unique libraries that are committed to supporting literacy and bringing books and the joy of reading to the residents of their countries.

The Kenya National Library Service uses animals to bring education, literature and entertainment to thousands of people in outlying areas in eastern Kenya. Every day, three camels form a caravan to take more than 300 books to schools located in distant areas of the country. The books are the key to education and literacy development for hundreds of children.

In western Kenya, two donkeys are hitched to a small, enclosed cart and then travel up to 20 kilometres to a school, fishing village or farming community. Children use the books to further their studies or just catch up on the latest adventure novel.

In Peru, the closest library to children living in the village of Yanamono, on the Amazon River, is over 50 kilometres away. That was true until Dr. Nancy Dunn built the Center for Sharing Knowledge downriver from the village. Now, every day, children walk or paddle up to a kilometre to visit Nancy and her library, which also houses a sewing centre for the women and accommodates workshops on sex education.

In Cajamarca, Peru, there are more than 700 libraries located in farmers' homes throughout the province. Reading circles are very popular in these libraries – everybody gathers and takes a turn reading from the same book. These stories are usually about the local people, their culture or history. The reading circles can last long into the night!

Paul Francescutti travelled to remote corners of the world to film innovative approaches to the delivery of library services. He is a producer with more than 20 years of experience at CTV Southwestern Ontario, who lives in Waterloo and has filmed in Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, China, Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru and Haiti.

Join us on this fascinating journey into the world of documentary production, followed by a slide show that reveals a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the accommodations, food and people that Paul experienced in the making of *Remote Access*.

Everyone is welcome to this free program.

Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian



WPL Hosts Pre-vision Screening Clinic

Beginning this fall, WPL is hosting pre-vision screening clinics for young children of New Canadian families. This is an initiative of the KW Community Spirit Lions Club who will partner with the University of Waterloo's Campus Lions Club, the University of Waterloo School of Optometry, WPL and the WPL's New Canadian settlement work program.

On Saturday mornings from September to April, the Club will bring their specialized vision equipment to the Main Library and students from the School of Optometry will provide basic vision checks to children between 4 and 6 years of age.

Vision checks will be available from 10:00am to 1:00pm on the following dates:

Saturday, September 20

Saturday, October 18

Saturday, November 15

Saturday, January 17

Saturday, February 21

Saturday, March 21

Saturday, April 18

Appointments are not required for this free, walk-in service.

Hours and Locations

MAIN LIBRARY

35 Albert Street
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 5E2
Phone: 519-886-1310

- Monday to Thursday – 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Friday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Saturday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Sundays – Open 1:00pm to 4:00pm starting October 19

POPULAR EXTENSIONS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY 519-886-1310

General Enquiries	Ext. 110
Computer Reservations	Ext. 124
Information Services	Ext. 124
Children's Department	Ext. 129
Overdues	Ext. 185
Holds	Ext. 189
Room Bookings	Ext. 186
Visiting Library Service	Ext. 186

McCORMICK BRANCH

500 Parkside Drive
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 5J4
Phone: 519-885-1920

- Tuesday to Thursday – 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Friday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Saturday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Sunday and Monday – Closed

TTY: 1-866-786-3942

TELRENEW: 519-886-5480

HOLIDAY HOURS 2008

The library will be closed on the following dates:

- Monday, October 13 – Thanksgiving
- November – Staff Development Day (date TBA)

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOURS

- Wednesday, December 24 – Open 10:00am to 1:30pm
- Thursday, December 25 – Closed
- Friday, December 26 – Closed
- Saturday, December 27 – Open 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Sunday, December 28 – Closed
- Monday, December 29 – Open 10:00am to 9:00pm*
- Tuesday, December 30 – Open 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Wednesday, December 31 – Open 10:00am to 1:30pm
- Thursday, January 1 – Closed
- Friday, January 2 – Regular hours resume

*Main only; McCormick is closed

Come Check It Out: The WPL Book Club!

This is an open club – feel free to attend once in a while, or come faithfully every month for some great discussion.

The club meets on the second Monday of each month from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Auditorium at the Main Library (35 Albert St.).

Upcoming Selections for 2008:

October 6 *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*
by Gregory Maguire

November 10 *Madame Bovary*
by Gustave Flaubert

December 8 *White Teeth*
by Zadie Smith

For a list of titles read by the Book Club since 2002, visit www.wpl.ca

We also invite you to visit the WPL Book Club Blog at www.wplbookclub.blogspot.com to learn more about our selected titles, post your own book reviews, and more.



One of many beautiful orchids on display from the Central Ontario Orchid Society during the Waterloo Horticultural Society's Flower & Vegetable Show at the Main Library.

Books on Film

This year has seen the release of many feature films adapted from popular books. Here is a sample of some of the books that have or will be brought to the big screen in 2008:

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED by Evelyn Waugh

Originally Published: 1945 | In Theatres: July 25, 2008

In 1920s' England, Charles Ryder's middle-class life is changed when he becomes friends with an affluent young man named Sebastian.

MARLEY AND ME by John Grogan

Originally Published: 2005 | In Theatres: Dec. 25, 2008

A young couple gets more than they bargained for when they adopt a hyperactive, un-trainable Labrador retriever puppy whom they name Marley.



THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL by Philippa Gregory

Originally Published: 2001 | In Theatres: Feb. 28, 2008

Mary and Anne Boleyn are two sisters rivalling for the favour of King Henry the Eighth.

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES by Sue Monk Kidd

Originally Published: 2003 | In Theatres: Oct. 17, 2008

It's the 1960s and Lily Owens is living in South Carolina with her African American nanny, Rosaleen, who has been her guardian since the untimely death of her mother. When Rosaleen insults some local racists, she and Lily decide to flee to a bee-keeping farm in a nearby town.

THE STONE ANGEL by Margaret Laurence

Originally Published: 1964 | In Theatres: May 9, 2008

Ninety-year-old Hagar Shipley reflects upon her life as she comes to terms with her admission into a nursing home.

THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE by Audrey Niffenegger

Originally Published: 2005 | In Theatres: Dec. 25, 2008

Henry is a librarian with a genetic disorder that causes him to unwillingly travel through time. The only stable aspect of his life is the love between him and his wife Clare.

Movie release dates were retrieved from the Internet Movie Database at www.imdb.com

By Christine Vanderheide, Electronic & Information Services

What the Library Means to Me

I've loved Saturday mornings since I was a kid. If I close my eyes I can picture them: Sliding my 8-year-old body out of bed, creeping past my parent's closed bedroom door, down the creaky stairs, into the kitchen to grab a glass of orange juice and a bowl of Captain Crunch cereal, before settling into the den to watch Scooby-Doo until my Dad got up.

He would come downstairs around 8:00am, nodding to me sleepily as he shuffled into the kitchen. I would follow him, hanging onto his legs while he idly flipped through the paper, tousling my hair while the coffee brewed.

"Ready for our date?" He'd say the same thing to me every Saturday morning.

"Uh-huh."

"Good," he would smile, heading back upstairs, coffee in hand.

We'd leave the house at 9:30am sharp. Our destination: the public library.

I can't remember when we didn't go to the library together. When I was small we would start in the children's section, move to the new releases, biography, and finally, the fiction section, where Dad would spend the bulk of his time selecting his reading material for the week: authors like Ludlum; Follett; Parker; Simeon. Every Saturday the same routine.

Eventually I graduated to the young reader's section and worked my way through the Nancy Drews and Judy Blumes, and finally to the adult sections. Each week I would bring a list of school projects and flip through the card catalogue, Dad close by to offer advice and opinions.

Even when I was a sullen teenager and we couldn't share a conversation that didn't erupt into a maelstrom we continued to go to the library, our love of books and reading breaking down barriers created by teenage angst. The first question Dad asked me after I'd settled in Waterloo to attend Wilfrid Laurier University was, "How's the library?" I still went home once a month to share our Saturday morning ritual, and, somehow, managed to recapture the magic of my youth.

Dad's gone now, but I still go to the library. I spend hours milling through the stacks and take pleasure in watching parents help their children in their quest for the perfect book. Mostly, though, I enjoy the books which carry the memories of everyone who's enjoyed them and remind me of a special bond with my father. That's what the library means to me: connection to my family, my community and my world.

By Margaret Urquhart, Waterloo Public Library Volunteer



McCormick Branch

Book Club:

Do you enjoy meeting with other people to discuss books you've enjoyed (or not enjoyed)? Beginning September 30 at 7:00pm, the McCormick Branch will host a monthly Book Club. The Club will meet in the Albert McCormick Community Centre (Community Room). The first book we will be discussing is Mary Lawson's *The Other Side of the Bridge*. Please join us!

Adult Books on CD:

Adult Recorded Books are now available for loan at the McCormick Branch library! The collection includes both fiction and nonfiction titles and can be found on the shelves to the left of the DVD collection. The collection is on loan from the Main Library and will be traded out every 3 to 4 months to keep the selection fresh. There is a great selection of titles available. Come in and check it out today!

New and Familiar Faces:

Nancy has been with WPL since 2005 and joined the McCormick team in April 2008. She enjoys playing Rock Band with her family and creating pottery. Nancy's recommendation for a fall read is *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls.

Kate joined the McCormick team in July 2008. Kate is from Winnipeg by way of Texas and is currently working towards receiving a Masters in Library & Information Science from the University of Western Ontario. Her recommendation for a fall read is *Runaway* by Alice Munro.

Rosey joined the library in February 1990. She enjoys spending time with her family and really likes crafts of all kinds, especially making soap. Rosey's recommendation for a fall read is anything by Bill Bryson.

Sharon joined the library in April 1990. She enjoys her three grandchildren (soon to be 4!), taking her dogs for long walks in the morning and traveling – especially in Europe. Sharon's recommendation for a fall read is *Watermelon Syrup* by Annie Jakobson.

Lex joined the library in April 1990. She enjoys gardening, birding, photography and reading. Lex's recommendation for a fall read is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen.

Dana joined the McCormick Branch in February 2008 to cover a maternity leave. Dana enjoys spending time with her friends and family, scrapbooking, watching movies and reading. She recommends reading *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult.

Jenn joined the library in July 2008. She is currently attending Wilfrid Laurier University majoring in English. Jenn's recommendation for a fall read is *My Friend Leonard* by James Frey.

Deb joined the library for a second time in March 1989 and has been a part of the McCormick Branch team since 1999. Deb is an amateur archaeologist, enjoys the outdoors, games, photography and spending time with her family and friends. Deb's recommendation for a fall read is *The Venetian Betrayal* by Steve Berry.

Rebecca joined the library in March of 2006. She is presently on maternity leave and busy adoring her infant daughter. Rebecca is currently reading *Moscow Rules* by Daniel Silva, and her daughter highly recommends *Your Personal Penguin* by Sandra Boynton.

Christine joined WPL in August 1991 and came to the McCormick Branch in February 2008 as Branch Manager to cover a maternity leave. She enjoys reading and playing Scrabble and other games with her family. Christine's recommendation for a fall read is *Birdman* by Mo Hayder.

Heather joined the McCormick Branch in September 2003. She is a 3rd year student at the University of Waterloo majoring in French. Heather recently left the library and is spending an academic year in France. Her recommendation for a fall read is *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult.

Svitlana came to the McCormick Branch as a volunteer at the Toy Library in 2007 and now works in circulation as well. Her recommendation for a fall read is *The Innocents Abroad, or, The New Pilgrims' Progress* by Mark Twain.

Tina came to the McCormick Branch as a volunteer at the Toy Library in 2007 and, like Svitlana, now works in circulation. Tina enjoys spending time with her boys and reading. Her recommendation for a fall read is anything by Marion Zimmer Bradley.

By Christine Brown, Manager,
McCormick Branch



Just for **Tweens**

Try this
tongue twister!

Picky people pick Peter Pan
peanut butter, tis the peanut
butter picky people pick.

COMING SOON

Registration will begin in September for Fall Programs including:

- Kool Kids
- Knitting Klub
- Tween Survivor
- Kids Quilt Too!
- Anime-niacs!
- A Beginning, a Muddle, and an End

Watch the website (www.wpl.ca/site/tweens/tweens_programs.asp) and the *Tween Tattler* for more information.

Did You Know?

- In Chicago, it is illegal to fish if you're in your pajamas.
- In Chicago, it is illegal to fish while sitting on the neck of a giraffe.
- In Utah, Washington, DC, and Colorado, it is against the law to fish from horseback. In Pennsylvania, you cannot even take a horse along on a fishing trip, regardless of whether it's being ridden or not.
- In Seattle, goldfish can ride the city buses in bowls only if they keep still.
- The biggest Canadian lake trout ever caught was a 102-pounder caught in Lake Athabasca, Saskatchewan in August 1961. Authorities estimated that the fish was at least 80 years old.

Our Laugh Out Loud Summer in Review

The nights are cooler, the days are shorter; summer is drawing to a close. As we get ready for the new school year, we look back and reflect on the many successful programs that took place. Approximately 1,420 kids signed up for the Laugh Out Loud (LOL) reading program and many of those took part in the various happenings at both Main and McCormick. Some science experiments were a huge success while others were a disappointing failure; an extreme weather guy shared his experiences; an "old-fashioned" craft was learned; classic movies were enjoyed by many and some kids learned about urban legends; just a few of the many programs that took place in July and August.

Tween Survivor participants read four novels: *The Outsiders*, *Torrie and the Pirate Queen*, *Last Days in Africville*, and as an added twist, an Eric Wilson title. Some lively discussions occurred as this group of readers, aged 9 to 12 years, critiqued, dissected, and evaluated, quite thoroughly, their selected choices. The books were evaluated on categories such as style, believability, prose, situation, location, character and plot development, just to name a few. The ability of the author and/or story to entertain and hold the reader's interest was very important.

Although the race was close and actually tied at one point, in the end, Eric Wilson was deemed the weakest link and therefore voted off. We held a symbolic ceremony to close the first ever WPL Tween Survivor. The second edition begins in October. Make sure you register early, beginning September 16, as the group is limited to 10 participants.

By Jeanne Church,
Children's Programs



WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

strategic plan 2008-2010

vision

The Waterloo Public Library will be one of the top mid-sized public libraries in Canada, and will be a key partner in supporting literacy and the intellectual, cultural and economic vitality of our community.

mission

The Waterloo Public Library is a place to grow! Through a team of friendly, knowledgeable and well trained staff, volunteers and trustees, WPL offers people of all ages innovative lifelong learning and leisure opportunities.



 Waterloo
Public
Library

a place to grow

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. To ensure that our staff team provides excellent service to the community by

- providing an environment that supports innovative thinking and the best practices in public librarianship, and helps staff understand and adapt to a changing workplace
- making WPL an “employer of choice”, attracting the best and brightest staff
- expanding the training, professional development and continuous learning opportunities for staff
- completing a market salary survey for all library positions, and implementing the results
- reviewing and adjusting staffing ratios, to reflect the growth of the library system
- reviewing and updating the library’s performance review system
- enhancing support for human resources functions

2. To provide facilities that meet the needs of our community by

- implementing the approved facility model which includes:
 - opening a west side branch as soon as possible and an east side branch in 2012
 - incorporating the redevelopment of the Main Library in the capital budget forecast for 2016

3. To ensure stable funding that is sufficient to achieve our vision by

- implementing the full funding agreement and a service level agreement between the library and the City

4. To use technology to provide efficient, effective and innovative library services by

- implementing Radio Frequency Identification technology
- providing increased self-service options, including e-commerce applications
- redesigning the library’s website
- digitizing local history resources, in partnership with the OurOntario provincial initiative
- collaborating with the Region of Waterloo on a web portal to serve new immigrants, building on WPL’s Newcomers Online Waterloo (NOW) site

5. To promote access to library collections, services and programs by

- enhancing readers’ advisory services for library collections
- confirming a long-term centralized collection management approach
- implementing the recommendations from the McCormick Community Consultation study
- partnering with the universities and other post-secondary institutions on community programming
- continuing to be a key partner in community development

6. To continue collaborative endeavours with other local public libraries by

- extending the current reciprocal borrowing agreements with the public libraries within Waterloo Region to include intra-library services, such as delivery
- discussing opportunities to align library services with other Library Boards in Waterloo Region, to maximize effectiveness and efficiency, and to provide the best service possible to our community

2007-2010 WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Tim Jackson, Chair
Bob Ernest, Vice-Chair
Tom Bishop
Dave Caputo
Barbara Dembek
Raegan Little

Ian McLean, Councillor
Lynne Paquette
Karen Scian, Councillor
Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian and
Secretary-Treasurer to the Board



Musicians Inspired by Books

So, it turns out The Strokes, Josh Ritter, Tegan and Sara, and Ron Sexsmith are all in love with reading – but they certainly aren't the only ones. These are just a few of the artists who have contributed insightful responses to *Found in the Margins* (www.foundinthemargins.com), an online magazine that delves into the reading habits and preferred literary works of musicians, activists and writers.

The website, based in Waterloo, Ontario, and launched in April 2006, has over 220 book recommendations from over 45 artists, complete with provocative arguments as to why each book is a worthwhile read, along with some insight into how each book has affected the artist's life in a personal, meaningful way.

The success and growth of *Found in the Margins* illustrates that artists are keen on being interviewed in an intellectually stimulating, alternative way – pondering and reflecting upon the indirect literary influences that have contributed to their work.

Nikolai Fraiture, bass player for The Strokes, says of *Found in the Margins* on the band's bio page that he "agreed [to the interview] only because they seem to really be interested in things other than ring tones and pimping their Myspace."

By Chris DePaul, www.foundinthemargins.com

Savvy in Cyberland

Join us for this free series of introductory technology seminars. All seminars are presented by Student Connections, a project group from the Laurier Business and Economics Department.

Seminars are held from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Main Library's (35 Albert Street) auditorium. Visit www.wpl.ca for the complete list of seminars. To register, phone 519-886-1310 ext. 124.

eBay II – Advanced Tips & Techniques for Buyers and Sellers

Monday, October 20

Tips, strategies and resources on how to buy low and sell high on eBay.

How to Buy and Use a Digital Camera

Monday, November 17

Everything you need to know before buying a camera including features, accessories and the latest technology.

Visit our website at

http://www.wpl.ca/site/home/tech_seminar_series.asp
for information on the courses for 2009.



– cartoon by artist J. R. Artinger

J.R. Artinger studied cartooning under Lynn Johnston and painting under Robert Bateman. His cartoons have appeared in a variety of publications and we're happy to have him as a regular contributor to *Off the Shelf*.

By clicking on the *askON* logo on the library website and typing in a question, students, consumers, businesspeople and other information seekers are able to immediately chat with skilled *askON* staff located in an Ontario library.

askON can help locate answers to quick questions, assist with more complicated research needs, deliver links to authoritative online information and provide help with search and digital literacy skills.

The pilot service is currently available 40 hours per week, with each of the participating libraries contributing staff to the collective *askON* schedule.

“Libraries have a strong tradition of working together to deliver new and improved services to the community,” says WPL Manager of Information Services, Gloria van Eek-Meijers. “This growing collaboration is yet another testament to the collective strength of libraries.”

Laura Master, Coordinator of Information Services at KPL, also notes, “We were pleased to be selected for the *askON* project. This initiative makes real-time chat reference, referral and information consulting services available to everyone in the community.”

A list of participating *askON* libraries and current hours can be found at www.askon.ca or visit www.knowledgeontario.ca/askontario



Our Ontario

Our Ontario now includes Your Waterloo!

Waterloo Public Library is pleased to announce that you can now “Meet Your Waterloo” by viewing our historic photo collection online at www.ourontario.ca

We’re not finished yet but by the time we are we’ll have over 2,000 images available for viewing.

Sue Plouffe has been working on our photo collection. She comes to WPL with thirteen years experience as the Assistant Archivist of the Archdiocese of Toronto where she arranged and described collections of various types of media including an extensive photograph collection. Sue was also responsible for the creation of searchable collection databases that are used both in-house and by public researchers.

To see WPL’s photo collection log on to www.ourontario.ca and click on “browse by contributor” to see what’s on *Your Waterloo!* so far. You can search in a variety of ways, including keyword and subject.

What did King Street look like before it was paved? Who was Moses Springer anyway? Did people really swim in Silver Lake? Where was Waterloo’s first library, the Mechanics’ Institute? Visit *Your Waterloo!* at www.ourontario.ca to find out!

By Janet Seally, Local History Manager

Remembrance: a Special Medal Collection Comes to WPL



For Don Cudmore, each day is a day of remembrance. Don, a retired navy vet, has put together a collection of more than 200 Orders, decorations and medals that represent the history of many missions and peacekeeping missions, undertaken by Canada and Britain, and their allies for the past 100 years.

Don has great respect for those who have served our country and says he "...wanted to do something as a war memorial."

After being struck by a hit-and-run driver in 1988, Don was forced to retire. Since then, he has spent a great deal of time building his collection. Not all of the medals are originals. Some are replicas because the most prestigious medals, like the Victoria Cross, are rarely available to purchase.

The medals have been secured for public viewing and have been displayed at Naval Vets Clubs, Legions, Air Force Clubs and other local public facilities. Don has also catalogued his collection to provide details about the history and design of each medal, why it was awarded, and the number of Canadians to receive the medal. In a summary of his work, Don says, "No one received all, many received none, but all were participants in every award," and that as time goes by it "...becomes more difficult to thank and honor the many people involved with these efforts."

The medals will be displayed at the Main Library during the month of October. Please drop by to view a collection that pays great tribute to many members of the Navy and Army, along with others involved in peacekeeping.

**Note: the collection has been sold recently but will still be honoured and acknowledged.*

By Sandra Wright, Outreach Services

Live & Learn Lectures

Reserve the following Tuesday evenings on your calendar and join us for this free series of thought-provoking and entertaining lectures! Presented in partnership with the University of Waterloo's Faculty of Arts, the lectures will take place from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Waterloo Public Library, 35 Albert Street, in the James J. Brown Auditorium. Visit the library or our website at www.wpl.ca to find more details as to what each lecture is about.

September 16, 2008

Social Innovation: Leadership for Social Change

Cheryl Rose, Director of Partnerships and Programs SiG@Waterloo

September 30, 2008

Where Am I? Why we can find our way to the moon but get lost at the mall

Colin Ellard, Associate Professor, Psychology

October 14, 2008

Convergent Telematic Theatre:

A New Fad or the Future of Live Theatre?

Gerd Hauck, Associate Professor, Drama & Speech Communication

October 28, 2008

A Short History of the Sexes

Shannon Dea, Assistant Professor, Philosophy

November 11, 2008

How Children and Adults Work Out Who Owns What!

Ori Friedman, Assistant Professor, Psychology

November 25, 2008

Female Husbands in the News: Same-Sex Marriage & 18th Century Media

Fraser Easton, Associate Professor, English Language & Literature

December 9, 2008

Topic to be announced.



For more information, contact:

Waterloo Public Library:

519-886-1310 ext. 124;

e-mail: askus@wpl.ca

University of Waterloo:

519-888-4567 ext. 38514;

e-mail: mobriens@uwaterloo.ca

Pawsitively Good Books



Reviewer's Name: Monica Norris
Author: Vicki Croke
Title: *The Lady and the Panda*

The Giant Panda has been the animal I admire most since as far back as my memories will allow me. This book fit me perfectly; it just fit in a much different way than anticipated. I admit when I first read the title, I fully expected the biography of an established and educated zoologist; a character similar to a Jane Goodall of the Pandas. It was surprising to say the least, to read the dust jacket and discover it is instead the biography of a seamstress and Manhattan socialite.

It is the true story of Ruth Harkness, a resolute and charming woman, and the first person from Western society to ever capture a living Panda.

The author is able to paint a brutally realistic picture of the social and economic state between early 20th century China and America, while still portraying Harkness as a whimsical female adventurer, who wished to discover the wonders of China's wilderness. An intriguing theme woven throughout the novel is the juxtaposition of human greed and human compassion. It will sweep you away with awe-inspiring descriptions and heartbreaking details.

Ninety years after Harkness' adventure, I found myself in China on the same quest; to meet a Panda. This book awakened a strong emotional attachment inside me. As I dipped into this book, a sense of longing and familiarity washed over me as I read the names of cities I've been to and places I've seen. Croke is able to 'take you back' to a mystic and precarious world.

Monica Norris is a dedicated volunteer with the KW Humane Society <http://www.kwhumane.com>



Reviewer's Name: Laurie Clarke
Author: Richard Smith
Title: *Your Cat's Just Not That Into You*

Finally, a book that confronts our innermost fears as cat lovers. Can it be that our relationship with our sweet felines is not what it seems? We are committed to the relationship, but are they?

Smith's tongue-in-cheek book is a takeoff on the bestseller *He's Just Not That Into You*, a "self-help" book aimed at single women who avoid the truth that the guy they like is "just not that into" them.

Can the same be said of the cats we love? Amusing and written in the style of advice to the lovelorn, the book's intention is to have we cat owners face the truth. The author suggests that we make excuses for our cats when they are aloof, cuddle only on their time and refuse to acknowledge us when we call them.

I think he may be right. When my cats sit and stare at me while I (shamelessly) beg them to come to me, I tell myself it is just their independent nature. Yet their "independent nature" is lost when I open a can of tuna. As the book says, though, if you want a pet to come when you call them, get a Labrador retriever!



Laurie Clarke is an avid reader and the owner of "Who Loves Kitty" <http://www.wholoveskitty.ca/>, an online store for cat lovers. She is the owner of 21-year-old Pyewacket,

"...an extremely smart tortoiseshell who has lived life if not as a queen, at the least as a princess."



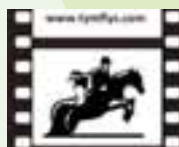
Reviewer's Name: Sandi Henning
Author: Sarah Challis
Title: *Turning for Home*

As someone who has been involved in the world of horses for almost 30 years, I am always on the lookout for a good novel with an equine theme. Unfortunately, many "horsy" novels are unrealistic, poorly researched and decidedly underwhelming. In Sarah Challis, however, I found a refreshing change from the norm. Her books are not entirely focused on the world of horses, but do have that underlying theme.

In *Turning for Home*, Lady Pamela Bentham loves her beautiful Somerset farm but her family is determined to move her to a home for old folk, take over the property and her assets so as to live comfortably ever after. However, strong-willed Lady Bentham has no intention of co-operating.

Enter Maeve Delaney, a misfit of a caregiver who fits in perfectly with Lady Bentham's unique lifestyle. The quirky pair soon discover they share many interests, particularly that of the future of Lady Bentham's one remaining racehorse, Irish Dancer.

Sarah Challis is a keen horsewoman and competes in point-to-points in England. She is more than up to the task of delivering an excellent family saga with a horsy background.



Sandi Henning is the owner of "Time Flies Equine Photography" www.tymflys.com... a local business which focuses on the competitive world of horse sports.

He's Talented, He's Terrific, He's Traplin



Do you remember where you were on Thursday, August 14th, 2003? That was the day of the great blackout, and a memorable one for most of us. That was also the day that we had a highly anticipated children's concert scheduled at the library with a well-loved local singer called Erick Traplin. Some entertainers would have been thrown into a tizzy with the power outage, but not Erick... he just packed up and headed to the front lawn for an 'open air' concert. The audience loved it! And Erick loved it too. With his easygoing style and popular tunes Erick created a happy memory on an unusual day.

Erick has been creating happy memories for several generations of fans. In fact, in 2009 he will mark his 20th anniversary as a professional musician. Seeing him perform for children with such animation and enthusiasm, it's hard to believe that his first choice was performing for adults, which is an interest that he still indulges in by performing in pubs and seniors' centres. A special feature of Erick's children's concerts is his bubble machine and signature tunes like *Bubbles and Spiderman*. *Bubbles* is one of Erick's most recognized and requested songs. He says that, "I've heard back from many moms and dads over the years that their kids love this song. It is repetitive, easy to learn and it's a happy song." Interestingly enough, the adults who see him performing in pubs frequently request his children's songs too.

Erick is also currently working on three new CDs, two for children and a 'bluesy' one for adults. The next children's CD to be released will be called *Little Hands Talking*, a collaboration with a local sign language teacher called Leslie Lang. This CD will have six old favourites and six new songs that Erick has written, and will include a sign language booklet. Erick is also expanding his artistic horizons by writing children's books that are based on his songs, and he has a new DVD out called *Live at the Registry Theatre*. Whew! Erick sure is keeping busy and when asked what he sees himself doing in the next ten years his response is, "Absolutely the same thing! I don't plan to ever retire. I love doing it and the love hasn't diminished, it's grown." To find out where Erick is performing next, to see what's new, or purchase a CD just visit his website at www.ericktraplin.com. Please note that the library also has a wonderful collection of music CDs for you to check out.

By Kerstin, Children's Librarian

Recommended Reads From A Few of Our Favourite Waterloo Booksellers

STORE: **Words Worth Books**
WEBSITE: www.wordsworthbooks.com
REVIEWER: **David Worsley**
TITLE: **Cultural Amnesia**
AUTHOR: **Clive James**

In the midst of trying to keep up with all the great books at this time of year, it's easy to forget wordsmiths from years past, without whom the literary landscape would be considerably less flavourful.

With that in mind, the indefatigable Australian author and critic has collected over 100 of his essays on a wide scope of writers and thinkers who influenced his writing, reading and thought.

Rather than a bluff guide, the works come together to show how a serious person of letters comes to view the world and, given the tumult of the past century, what we lose when some of these works vanish from the larger culture.

From the introduction: "There are hundreds of voices in this book, and hundreds more which although not cited directly, are nevertheless present in the way its author speaks. In that sense, the best sense, there is no such thing as an individual voice. There is only an individual responsibility."

To finish the book is not the point especially, but rather its power lies in the collective weight of history and fragility apparent in its pages. In an age built on, and for, speed, *Cultural Amnesia* is essential reading.

STORE: **READ for your Life Children's Book Store**
REVIEWER: **Darlene Ashe**
TITLE: **Aggie's Storms**
AUTHOR: **Donna Mann**

Aggie's Storms is a story which reinforces how important story is in developing your life. This engaging tale takes readers back to 1900 when 10-year-old Aggie lived in a log cabin in the Queen's Bush in Grey County.

This is not an old stodgy history book. This is a book about a vibrant, feisty, self-assured young girl who will steal your heart, make you laugh aloud and will make you wish you were one of her girlfriends.

Aggie is better known as Agnes Macphail*, Canada's first female Member of Parliament. *Aggie's Storms* is a must read for girls who pay attention to their dreams and the people who can help them turn those dreams into reality.

**Note: Agnes changed the spelling of her family name to Macphail which she said was easier for people to spell since it was the way they said it.*

STORE: **Chapters Waterloo**
WEBSITE: www.chapters.indigo.ca
REVIEWER: **Katrina Boyce**
TITLE: **My Sister's Keeper**
AUTHOR: **Jodi Picoult**

How far would you go to save your child's life? That is the dilemma facing the Fitzgerald family in *My Sister's Keeper*. Kate has a rare form of Leukemia which requires an exact genetic match for bone marrow donation. When one can't be found within the family, her parents give birth to a child chosen for her genetic code. Anna grows up knowing that her reason for living is to help save her sister Kate's life. But when does the desire to save one child's life cross the line into causing harm to another child? Anna shocks everyone when she sues her family for the right to medically control her own body. Filled with heart-wrenching emotion and issues of family loyalty, and cutting edge medical technology, *My Sister's Keeper* is a fascinating read that will stay with you long after you've read the last page!



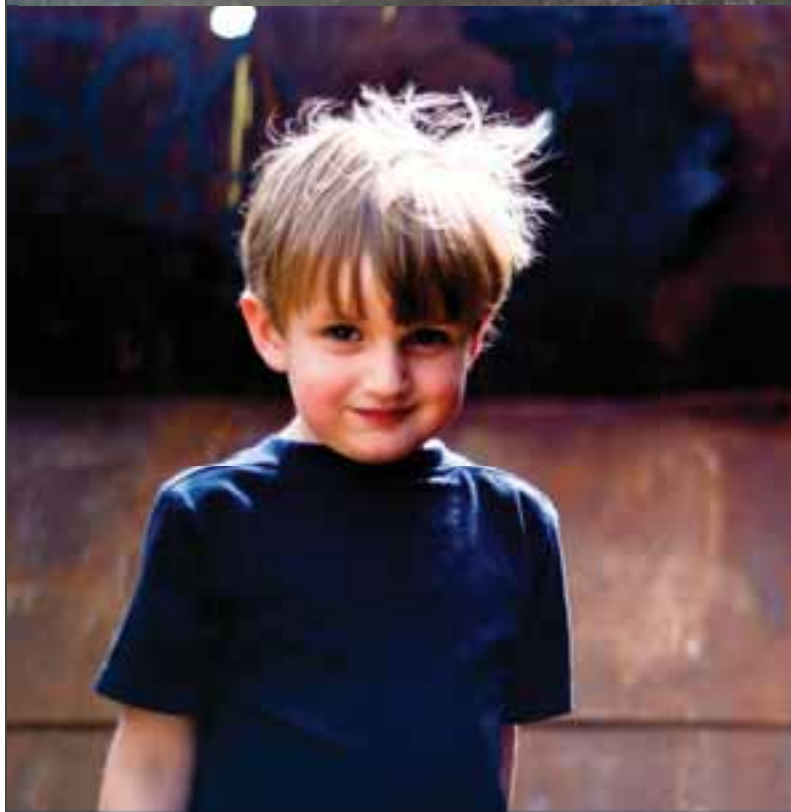
Acting Platoon Chief Bruce Good

Waterloo Fire Rescue

(Featured in August 2009 of the Reading 911 Calendar)

Bruce Good loves a good novel, whether it's a thriller, suspense or crime. Of course, he always has to make time for the more mundane reading of procedural manuals and guideline updates that are part of the job with Fire Rescue. His three children also enjoyed reading from an early age, with Robert Munsch, and R.L. Stine's "Goosebumps" books being particular favourites.

Appearing in this photo with Platoon Chief Bruce Good is Daisy Ball.



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Reading 911 Calendar



The Waterloo Public Library, in partnership with Waterloo Regional Police Services, Waterloo Fire Rescue, Waterloo EMS, Region of Waterloo

Public Health and Grand River Hospital's Children's Outpatient Clinic, have created a special calendar for 2009.


This 12-month calendar, featuring the work of award-winning barebonephoto and printing by Waterloo Printing, showcases Waterloo's emergency support services personnel caught in the act of reading with children.

Calendars will be available for purchase at the Main Library (Circulation Desk) and the McCormick Branch for \$16.00 each (taxes included). All of the proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go towards library programming and literacy for children.

Buy your calendar today!

www.wpl.ca

a place to grow

 Waterloo
Public
Library