

# Off the Shelf

## Your Guide to Programs and Services at the Waterloo Public Library

Winter 2009 | Issue 17

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### Free Resume Writer at WPL

Let our experienced and qualified resume writer help you grow your career and job opportunities. Free, one-on-one consultations are available at our Main Library and at the McCormick Branch. Whether you are creating a first resume, or updating your existing resume for career changes and new possibilities, our volunteer is here to help you. Contact the Information Desk at the Main Library (519-886-1310 ext. 124) for more information and to book your appointment.

### WPL Hosts Pre-vision Screening Clinic

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, and the University of Waterloo School of Optometry.

On certain Saturday mornings, the Lions 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 four and six years of age.

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

Saturday, January 17  
Saturday, February 21

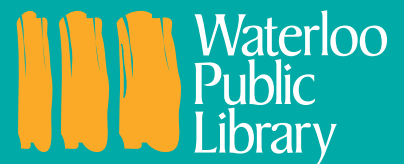
Saturday, March 21  
Saturday, April 18

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

### WPL's Customer Appreciation Day & Open House: Saturday, February 14

Details of this fun event will be announced at the library and on www.wpl.ca later in January. Mark the date on your calendar now and be sure to join us!

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



## Message from the Chair and Chief Librarian

Tough economic times go hand in hand with an increase in use of library services. With the recent downturn in the economy, more people are coming to WPL, as they make different choices about their discretionary money, or try to cope with difficult times.

At WPL we typically record 3 million uses each year, which includes program attendance, use of our Internet workstations, requests for information, and over 1.3 million loans of books, DVDs, CDs and other library materials.

In the first half of this year, we have already seen a 30% increase in the number of people getting WPL membership cards, a 13% increase in the number of requests for information, and a 17% increase in the number of reserves placed and filled. All of our other indicators are also up significantly.

During a downturn in the economy, many people rediscover the value of library membership, and so our business is currently booming and we are running to keep up!

Whether you are looking for entertainment, information, access to new technologies, or help with job search...check out WPL. We're here to help!

## Think Green!

Waterloo Public Library's *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! Please think green and recycle.





# 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

## 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 2009

The library will be closed on the following days:

- Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day
- Monday, February 16 – Family Day
- Friday, April 10 – Good Friday
- Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday
- Monday, April 13 – Easter Monday

\*Main only; McCormick is closed

## New Magazines at WPL

At Waterloo Public Library we have a large collection of magazines available for reading in-house and for borrowing. The latest additions to the collection are:

*Boats & Places*

*Fine Gardening*

*Hello! Canada*

*MacWorld* (Mac computers)

*Maisonneuve* (English language; Canadian)

*Men's Vogue*

*Mental Floss*

*Moneysense* (Canadian)

*Mother Earth News*

*PaintWorks*

*The Quilter*

*Victoria*

*Harvard Business Review*

*The Onion*

*Top Gear*

*Travel & Leisure*

*Wired*

**Enjoy!**

# Book Clubs

## 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. Visit our blog at [www.wplbookclub.blogspot.com](http://www.wplbookclub.blogspot.com) to learn more about our selected titles, post your own book reviews, and more. The club meets at 7:00pm in the Auditorium at the Main Library (35 Albert Street).

### Selections for 2009:

January 12 *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir* by Bill Bryson

February 9 *Blindness* by Jose Saramago

March 9 *A Short History of Progress* by Ronald Wright

April 20 *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

May 11 *Watchmen* by Alan Moore

June 8 *The Painted Veil* by Somerset Maugham

July 13 *Black Dogs* by Ian McEwan

August 10 *The Nymph and the Lamp* by Thomas H. Raddall

September 14 *One Book, One Community* book (TBA)

October 19 *Payback: Debt and the Shadowside of Wealth* by Margaret Atwood

November 9 *The Book of Negroes* by Lawrence Hill

December 14 *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

## The McCormick Branch Book Club

This new book club is also “open”. Participants are welcome to attend once in a while, or come faithfully every month for some great discussion. The club meets at 7:00pm in the Community Room at the Albert McCormick Community Centre. For more information, call 519-885-1920.

### Selections for 2009:

January 27 *Crocodile on the Sandbank* by Elizabeth Peters

February 24 *Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

March 31 *Consolation* by Michael Redhill

April 28 *Piano Man's Daughter* by Timothy Findley

May 26 *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

June 30 *Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

July 28 *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult



# THE FOOD BANK OF WATERLOO REGION

**FOOD:** *It is a joy that everyone deserves.*

**FOOD:** *It is neither a privilege nor a luxury, but a daily requirement.*

**FOOD:** *It is a gift you have given.*



*The contents of a typical food hamper.*



*Food Bank volunteers hard at work.*



Recently we met a successful young woman who, just 3 years ago, couldn't make ends meet because of a series of unavoidable circumstances. When she realized that she was going to have to ask for help, she felt ashamed. As a well-educated, healthy person living in an affluent community she felt she should be able to make it on her own. Reality dictated otherwise and for the sake of her infant son, she went to a local agency for food assistance.

“The volunteers were so wonderful. I cried and kept telling them I was sorry to have to come,” she explains. “They comforted me and told me ‘of course you had to come. You need some help right now to get back on your feet. That’s why we are here.’”

With that hurdle overcome, she was able to focus on her job search and was soon able to move on with her life. Hers is just one of many stories of people that you help by supporting The Food Bank.

Each year in Waterloo Region approximately 25,000 people, half of them children, need food assistance from one of the 71 community food programs (including food hampers, hot meals, shelters, residential programs) we service. They may be living next door, sitting next to you in the library or working at a business you visit. They each have a story. They all are our neighbours.

Guest columnist, Wendi Campbell, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Waterloo Region

**Find out how you can get help by visiting [www.thefoodbank.ca](http://www.thefoodbank.ca)**



## The Lady in the Box

Looking for a book to help explain homelessness to your children? Wendi Campbell recommends: *The Lady in the Box* by Ann McGovern, illustrated by Marni Backer.

Set during the holiday season on the snowy streets of New York City, *The Lady in the Box* is a powerful story of neighbours helping neighbours and how simple acts of kindness can make a difference in our community.

Lizzie and Ben are fascinated by the “Lady” living in the box at the end of their street. They are not supposed to talk to strangers but notice that she looks hungry and cold, and try to help by bringing her food and clothing. With the help of their mother they learn more about their new friend, Dorrie, how she ended up in the box, and start to understand what it is like to be homeless in a big city. The kids also learn how they can help and that even little things make a huge difference and put smiles on faces that are facing hardships they can only imagine.

Ann McGovern’s realistic portrayal of the curiosity of children and their innocent compassion is set against the beautiful art of Marni Backer. It is a fabulous read for all ages. This book is an opportunity to spend time with the kids and reflect on the challenges of many people right here in our community, and to spark discussion on what we can do to help.

# McCormick Branch

## McCormick Customers Are Talking...

The McCormick Branch Library is a much-loved neighbourhood destination. People who visit McCormick do so for a variety of reasons. As varied as their reasons may be, one thing is clear, people love the library. For this issue of the newsletter, I interviewed several customers to find out what it is they like about the library.

*Christine Brown, Manager,  
McCormick Branch*

### Suzanne – Family manager and stay-at-home mom

**How often do you come to the McCormick Branch Library?** *Once or twice a week – sometimes more!*

**Have you enrolled your children in any of our programs?** *In the past few years both Alexis and Jackson have participated in lots of the programs and really enjoyed them. Alexis especially loved the Nifty Knitters Club!*

**What do you like about the McCormick Branch?** *McCormick is easy to get to. I like getting recommendations for books. I have a list of books that have been recommended to me by people in the library and I keep track so that I can let the person know if I liked it. The kids love getting books and movies from the library. In fact, I think they have probably watched every children's movie that the library has, at least once.*

**Do you have any book or DVD recommendations?** *I'd say that my favourite book is *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. Alexis really enjoyed *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell. Jackson is interested in any books about hockey or the Titanic and is fascinated by the *High School Musical* movies.*



### Matthew – Five year old (with dad, Daryl)

I'm going to ask you and your dad some questions about coming to the library. Okay? Matthew shyly nods his head.

**How long have you been coming to the McCormick Branch Library?** *I don't know. Dad?... Since we moved to Waterloo from Sudbury last year.*

**Did you start coming to the library as soon as you moved here?** *Uhhh...Dad? No, we went to Toys"R"Us first but then we came to the library.*

**What do you like about the McCormick Branch?** *Getting lots of books and movies. Sometimes we get some for my mom and little brother too. We like to watch hockey (in the Arena next door) and look at our books.*

**Do you have any book or DVD recommendations?** *Power Rangers, Batman, Superman...*

### Joyce – Formerly a Microbiology Technician, currently a full-time mom

**How long have you been coming to the McCormick Branch Library?** *Since my husband and I moved here from China six years ago.*

**What do you typically use the library for?** *My daughter, Kaitlyn, is two years old and we come to the library to get her movies and books. Sometimes I get books on parenting for myself.*

**What do you like about the McCormick Branch Library?** *It is very close to where I live so it is convenient to come here. I really like the Toys to Grow (aka Toy Library) program. In the wintertime we come to borrow toys at least once a week.*

**What books or DVDs does Kaitlyn like?** *Baby Einstein.*

### Stan – Shipper/Receiver

**How long have you been coming to the McCormick Branch Library?** *For about six years.*

**What do you typically use the library for?** *Well, I gave up on TV a while back – I don't even have cable anymore. I love reading so I borrow a fair number of books from the library. The library has a good selection of fiction and nonfiction books. I also use the computers for things like checking e-mail, listening to music and watching things on YouTube.*

**What do you like about the McCormick Branch Library?** *It's close by so I can get here easily. Having access to the computers is very convenient.*

**Do you have any book or DVD recommendations?** *I like to read science fiction/fantasy, mystery/suspense and I like to browse what is on the best-seller list.*

# What Are You Reading?

WPL staff share some of their favourite reads.

**TITLE:** *Apocalypse 2012: A Scientific Investigation into Civilization's End*

**AUTHOR:** Joseph E. Lawrence

**DEWEY**

**DECIMAL #:** 303.490905 Jos

**REVIEWER:** Kerstin Habenicht, Children's Programs Co-ordinator

Many world religions and prophets claim that the world as we know it will come to an end at some point. The closest thing that we have as an 'end date' is December 21, 2012, when the extraordinary Mayan calendar abruptly ends. Most of us have heard all this before, but is there any scientific proof that 12.21.2012 may be the end, not of the planet, but of our civilization?

Joseph Lawrence travelled the world to interview experts on topics that include: sunspots, the weakening magnetic shield, super volcanoes, the tremendous increase in world population, and interstellar energy clouds in order to discover how they may impact a mass extinction. The most startling one for me was the 'super volcano' scenario. One such super volcano is located under the crust of Yellowstone National Park. This is not your average volcano. Should it erupt it will cover North America in volcanic ash and create a nuclear winter that will most likely kill 90% of the world's population. There are signs that it is becoming active again e.g. the ground has risen, ice-cold glacier lakes are suddenly as warm as a bathtub, etc. Fascinating yet scary stuff! There is every indication that we are entering a turbulent phase on earth.

The science in this book is well worth the read, however, the author's writing style and choice of words may be off-putting for some. After you have read this book and mulled over what it may mean to you personally, I suggest a glass of wine and the strength of spirit to enjoy each and every day that we are granted on this beautiful planet.

**TITLE:** *Sweetheart*

**AUTHOR:** Chelsea Cain

**REVIEWER:** Teresa Nickels-Prilesnik, Holds, Audio-Visual & Circulation Assistant



*Sweetheart* is Chelsea Cain's second novel. It continues where her first best-seller *Heartsick* ends. It is a psychological thriller where Cain's use of the "heart" as a motif is intriguing. Main characters Detective Archie Sheridan and serial killer Gretchen Lowell's relationship is significant. After Gretchen tortures Archie in the first novel, he becomes dependent on her; even after her capture and plea bargain, Archie visits her at the prison every Sunday until she releases another victim's name, thus, he will not rest until the families have closure. By doing this he battles personal demons, and the feverish pace continues into the second novel after another body is found in the same park where years earlier Archie and the task force found Gretchen's first victim. The stress of dealing with his job, marriage and the media wear Archie down. It is not until Gretchen escapes that the parasitic relationship cracks Archie. Once more captive, yet this time by his own free will, it seems as if Archie's heart will literally stop. This novel is not for the "light-hearted" but will definitely keep those avid mystery buffs interested by the multiple story lines as well as the fiery ending.

**TITLE:** *Lavinia*

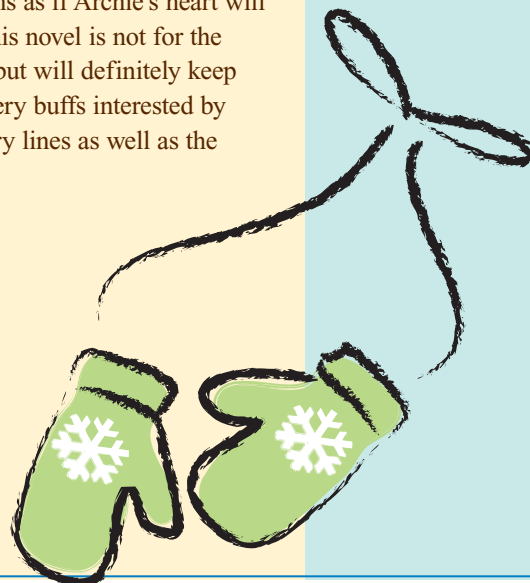
**AUTHOR:** Ursula LeGuin

**REVIEWER:** Stayce Webber, Information Services Assistant

On the surface, *Lavinia* is a retelling of Virgil's *Aeneid*. While reading the *Aeneid* in the original Latin, LeGuin said she became intrigued by the character of Lavinia, who became the wife of Aeneas and gave her name to the city he founded in Italy. Virgil gives no lines to Lavinia, no personality at all, but LeGuin says she eventually found herself "listening" for Lavinia's voice, and then writing this novel from her point of view.

*Lavinia* not only fleshes out Virgil's epic, but tells a compelling story of her own, a beautiful and luminous tale of a fateful life that might-have-been, 3,000 years ago.

Aside from providing an illuminating change in perspective, *Lavinia* is also interesting as a collaboration between two fantastic authors living 2,000 years apart. The voice of Lavinia as imagined by LeGuin is so compelling that, having heard it, I find it's hard to imagine her not living on somewhere in the forests of Italy, whispering her story at the sacred spring as she remembers Aeneas. For LeGuin reading excerpts of *Lavinia*, check out [www.ursulaklequin.com](http://www.ursulaklequin.com) or check our catalogue for translations of the *Aeneid*.



# Just for Tweens

**Test**  
your snowflake  
knowledge!

## Winter Fun Websites

### Quizzes and Fun Facts

[www.quizzes.familyeducation.com](http://www.quizzes.familyeducation.com)

### Crafts

<http://www.mycraftbook.com/List.asp?subcategoryID=39>

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/winter/>

(my favourite is the Snow Family Finger Puppets)

*Jeanne Church, Children's Programs*

## Questions:

**1** What is the biggest snowflake on record?

2" x 3"     5" x 5"     8" x 12"

**2** What's the heaviest 24-hour snowfall on record for the United States?

49"     60"     76"

**3** Is it ever "too cold" to snow?

Yes     No

**4** Not counting wind chill, what's the coldest natural temperature ever recorded on earth?

-95.9°F     -117.3°F     -128.6°F

**5** Is snow edible?

Yes     No

## Answers:

1. Maybe it's just "cold war" propaganda, but the largest snowflake ever found was 8" by 12" (about the size of a sheet of typing paper). It was reported to have fallen, probably with a thud, in Bratsk, Siberia, in 1971. Can you imagine shoveling a driveway full of those giants?
2. The heaviest snowfall in a 24-hour period happened on April 15, 1921, when 6 feet 4 inches of the white stuff clobbered the good folks living in Silver Lake, Colorado. Thirty-eight years later, a record breaking snow storm occurred on February 13 to 19, 1959, at Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl, California, when 15 feet 9 inches of snow covered the ground, trees, and houses.
3. No. Snow at very low temperatures is rare, but not impossible. All that is required to produce snow is moisture in the air and some way to lift and cool the air.
4. A bone chilling -128.6°F was recorded at Vostok, a research base in Antarctica, on July 21, 1983. This is colder than dry ice (frozen CO<sub>2</sub>) which forms at -109.3°F.
5. If you stay away from yellow snow, clean snow is certainly edible – but we wouldn't advise a steady diet of it. City snow often contains pollutants – although usually in such low concentrations that they don't pose much of a health risk.



# KidBits

If you've visited the Children's Department at the Main Library lately then you may have noticed some exciting changes – specifically, new carpet! The whole library is being carpeted for the first time in 20 years and it looks refreshed and renewed. This carpet is not just attractive and sturdy it is also environmentally friendly by being a low-odour, recycled carpet that is made in Canada. This is just the beginning. Watch for all the changes coming up when we start moving everything around to make room for a new Tweens section. Exciting times ahead!

All of these changes sparked an interest for interior decorating. Looking around I discovered a number of books on the subject with kids in mind. Here are some samples of books I found:

## ***Childstyle: Decorating Ideas and Projects for Kid's Rooms***

**Editor, Amy Tincher-Durik**

**(Dewey Decimal #: 747.77083 Chi)**

Decorating a safe, comfortable haven for a child can be quite a creative journey for parents. This book illustrates how to design a beautiful, functional and unique room in an enduring style that will grow and adapt with each child.

## ***Ideas for Great Kids' Rooms***

**By Jane Horn (Dewey Decimal #: 747.77 Hor)**

Inspirational ideas abound in this series with children's bedrooms that range from the practical to the fantastical e.g. locomotive bed, pirate ship bed, etc. Great storage ideas and painting tips. The range of ideas is suitable for kids from preschoolers to young adults and encourages child participation in the planning process.



## ***The Smart Approach to Baby Rooms*** **By Joanne Still (Dewey Decimal #: 747.77 Sti)**

Proper flooring, wall/window treatments, storage solutions and safety issues are all addressed in this comprehensive book. There are many illustrations of beautifully furnished rooms for babies and toddlers. There is even a unique appendix with room/furniture templates to help you design a room more easily.

## ***It's your Room!:*** ***A Decorating Guide for Real Kids*** **By Janice Weaver & Frieda Wishinsky (J747.77 Wea)**

Older kids who want to participate in the redesign of their room should take a look at this book which explains how to choose colour, how to paint, how to get rid of clutter and find storage solutions, etc. A useful tool with commentary from kids who have been through the process.

Now that you've been inspired... get cracking! Make those changes that you have been dreaming about to help make your room a more comfy and cozy place. Enjoy!

Remember to drop in during March Break when we will be hosting a variety of exciting, free programs.

*Kerstin*



**Dean DeSilva,  
Head Coach  
Waterloo Siskins  
OHA Jr. Hockey  
Club**

<http://www.waterloosiskins.ca/>

**Author: Jim Tressel with Chris Fabry**

**Title: *The Winners Manual: For the Game of Life***

Jim Tressel is the head football coach at Ohio State University, but this book isn't about football. There are direct correlations that Jim makes with football; after all, football is his life.

However, this book is about life in general. This is apparent with the simple question that is asked throughout the book, "If the game of life ended tonight, would you be a winner?"

As you read this book you will become wiser about yourself, your inner struggles, personal successes, strengths, your mentors and the effect they've had on you, and day-to-day things that affect us all. By answering the questions provided at the end of each chapter you realize that success of one's life is within the journey and the process, not the end result. The end result doesn't change who we are.

This book is an enjoyable and beneficial read for teenagers and adults trying to find their way. For coaches, teachers and mentors looking for reflection and reminding us that it is not what happens to you that counts in life. It's how you handle it.



**Brian Bourque,  
Head Coach  
University of  
Waterloo's Warriors  
Men's Hockey Team**

[http://www.athletics.uwaterloo.ca/varsity/sports/2008\\_2009/m\\_hockey/index.htm](http://www.athletics.uwaterloo.ca/varsity/sports/2008_2009/m_hockey/index.htm)

**Author: Lou Holtz**

**Title: *Winning Every Day***

Lou Holtz writes a smooth-flowing motivational story that can easily be read from cover to cover in one sitting.

In *Winning Every Day*, Holtz outlines how he developed from a small-statured boy from East Liverpool, Ohio, with a pronounced lisp and minimal finances into one of the winningest college football coaches in history. He describes his strategies and overall game plan for success in all areas of his life.

Holtz creatively combines humor, locker room stories, and philosophy into an inspiring story. Even though he has spent his life dedicated towards leadership in sport, the book is written in a way that any reader can easily incorporate the strategies to assist them to reach personal goals or life ambitions.

I have found that I regularly read excerpts from *Winning Every Day* as a motivational tool to constantly strive for excellence in all areas of my life.



*Chris Ray (#10), a 2nd year Environment and Business student from Kelowna, BC, is a forward with the University of Waterloo Warriors.*

# SENIORS @ WPL

## Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Whether you are walking to the library or just walking for fun, here are a few tips from the Canada Safety Council ([www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org)) to help keep you safe as you venture forth this winter:

- Invest in a good pair of winter boots. Buy ones that are well insulated and waterproof, have non-slip tread soles, wide low heels and are light in weight.
- Ice grippers on footwear can help you walk on hard packed snow and ice but be sure to remove before walking on smooth surfaces such as stone, tile and ceramic.
- Use a cane to help with balance. For walking outdoors, attach an ice pick at the end of your cane but be sure to remove when moving indoors.
- Prevent heat loss by wearing a warm hat, scarf, and mittens or gloves. Dressing in layers may also keep you warmer.
- Carry a small bag of grit, sand or non-clumping cat litter in your jacket pocket or handbag, to sprinkle when you are confronted with icy sidewalks, steps, bus stops, etc.
- Ask a passerby to help you cross the icy surface.

## Download Free eAudiobooks

WPL has a large collection of recorded books, but we also offer free downloads of eAudiobooks. Simply download the eAudiobook you choose from the large selection available and listen to it on your personal computer, MP3 player or other listening devices.

To use this service you will need a valid Waterloo Public Library card and a PIN (personal identification number).

To learn more about our free eAudiobooks, contact our Information Desk staff at 519-886-1310 ext. 124.

## Your Family Tree

What better project to while away those snowy winter days than working on your family history. The Ellis Little Local History Room offers many resources for the genealogist in you. There are books, clipping files, census material, historical atlases, journals, maps, memorabilia, newspapers, photographs and more.

We also offer a number of special genealogical and local history services including research assistance, birth/marriage/obituary articles, photographic reproductions and photocopying.

For more information, contact Janet Seally, Local History Manager, at 519-886-1310 ext. 126 or visit the Ellis Little Local History Room at the Main Library.





# 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 – 9:00pm at Waterloo Public Library, 35 Albert Street, in the James J. Brown Auditorium.

## English Conversation Circle

A free program offered by the Waterloo Public Library in partnership with YMCA Cross Cultural and Community Services

**Every Wednesday 6:30pm to 8:00pm**

Would you like to improve your English skills? Enjoy conversation in a lively environment? Make new friends? Meet people from around the world?

WPL is acting as host of a new, free program being held at the McCormick Branch Library, 500 Parkside Drive (part of the Albert McCormick Community Centre).

This special program is focused on newcomers, adults, and older youth with English as a Second Language (ESL) needs who would like a regular, informal opportunity to develop and practice their English language skills and socialize with others who have similar needs.

These Circles are run by volunteers. They provide an opportunity to speak in English in a casual and relaxed environment. We learn from each other. You can attend every week or drop in as your schedule allows.

For more information on the English Conversation Circle, contact Christine at 519-885-1920.

### February 10

**Blogging Yourself, Among Others:  
Online Diaries and New Communities**

Speaker: Aimee Morrison, Assistant Professor, English Language & Literature

### February 24

**Convergent Telematic Theatre:  
a New Fad or the Future of Live Theatre**

Speaker: Gerhard Hauck, Chair – Department of Drama

### March 10

**Mr. Plow Meets the Beatles**

Speaker: Randy Harris, Professor, English Language & Literature

### March 24

**Is It Normal For My Teenager To Be Gambling?**

Speaker: Rina Gupta, Ph.D., Co-Director of the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviours.

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Waterloo**  
FACULTY OF  
**ARTS**

For more information, phone  
519-886-1310 ext. 124 or  
519-888-4567 ext. 38242 or  
e-mail either [askus@wpl.ca](mailto:askus@wpl.ca) or  
[bgillett@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:bgillett@uwaterloo.ca)



*One Book, One Community* 2008 was a huge success. Over 900 people attended author readings in September, over 4,800 visited the OBOC website and 3,700, the blog.

The *One Book, One Community* title for 2009 will be announced in April. What will it be this time? Mystery? Suspense? Romance? Western? Autobiography? *The 100 Mile Diet* will be a hard act to follow but the OBOC committee is up to the challenge!

Watch the *Waterloo Region Record*, the OBOC blog <http://obocwaterlooregion.blogspot.com/> and the WPL website ([www.wpl.ca](http://www.wpl.ca)) for more details closer to the launch.

## PREVIOUS SELECTIONS

2008 Alisa Smith & James MacKinnon's *100 Mile Diet*



*One Book, One Community* committee member Bruce Johnstone and friend on The New Quarterly's 100 Mile Farm Tour in the summer of 2008.

- 2007 Elizabeth Ruth's *Smoke*
- 2006 Joseph Boyden's *Three Day Road*
- 2005 Robert Sawyer's *Hominids*
- 2004 Nino Ricci's *Lives of the Saints*
- 2003 Jane Urquhart's *The Stone Carvers*
- 2002 Alistair MacLeod's *No Great Mischief*

## OBOC FAQs

**Question:** What is *One Book, One Community*?

**Answer:** OBOC is a region-wide program which promotes reading, celebrates books and Canadian authors, and helps build a sense of community through the shared experience of reading.

**Question:** How is the book selected?

**Answer:** Each year titles from the public, book store and library employees, and book lovers in general are suggested to the committee. A long-list of 75 to 100 titles is created. The committee dramatically narrows the list down to just 6 finalists (which are kept top secret!). The committee members must then read each of the short-listed books, cast their vote and defend their choice. Majority rules in the selection of the OBOC title.

**Question:** What is the criteria for suggesting a book in the future?

**Answer:**

- written by a living Canadian author with, if possible, a body of work
- good story line with strong characters
- must appeal to the broadest possible audience; men and women; late teens to seniors
- needs to encourage the exchange of ideas
- have the "WOW!" factor
- must be in print and available in paperback to make it affordable

The easiest way to nominate a title is via the OBOC blog <http://obocwaterlooregion.blogspot.com/> or through the "feedback" tab on the website <http://news.therecord.com/sections/onebook2008>

**Question:** When is the title announced?

**Answer:** April.

**Question:** When does the chosen author(s) visit the Region?

**Answer:** September.

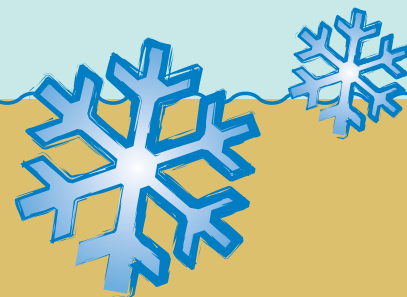
**Question:** Is there a fee charged or is registration needed for the author events?

**Answer:** All author events in September are free of charge and registration is not required.

## ONLINE RESOURCES FOR OBOC

*One Book, One Community* Website <http://www.therecord.com/onebook/>

*One Book, One Community* Blog <http://obocwaterlooregion.blogspot.com/>



# Bloggging @ WPL



A blog, short for weblog, is an online journal or newsletter which consists of short, frequently updated stories with links to news items and websites. Blogs are popular for all ages and are very user-friendly.

At WPL, we have a number of fun and informative blogs. Visit [www.wpl.ca](http://www.wpl.ca) for links to our blogs.

You are welcome to post your comments on our blogs however, that comment will be available for everyone to read. In order to protect your privacy please do not use your full name or provide other personal information when identifying yourself.

## Anime-niacs Club Blog

WPL has an anime club for tweens and teens. If you love anime then be sure to sign up for the weekly Anime-niacs Club where we'll watch new anime episodes, talk about your favourites, have contests for cool stuff, and much more. Check our blog for details.

## New Children's Books Blog

Keep up to date on all the latest books in our Children's Department collections.

## McCormick Branch Blog

Learn about what's happening at the McCormick Branch. McCormick is a great neighbourhood library with a focus on families. The McCormick Branch has lots of books, DVDs, CDs, kits, toys and programs suitable for the whole family.

## WPL Book Clubs' Blog

If you aren't able to attend a WPL Book Club meeting or you just want to share your thoughts online about the book(s) we are reading, please leave a message. We would love to hear from you!

## WPL's Graphic Novels, Comics and Manga Blog

Some of the best graphic novels for tweens and younger teens selected by the staff of WPL. Comment on your favourites on our blog or suggest a new one! We update often so be sure to check back!

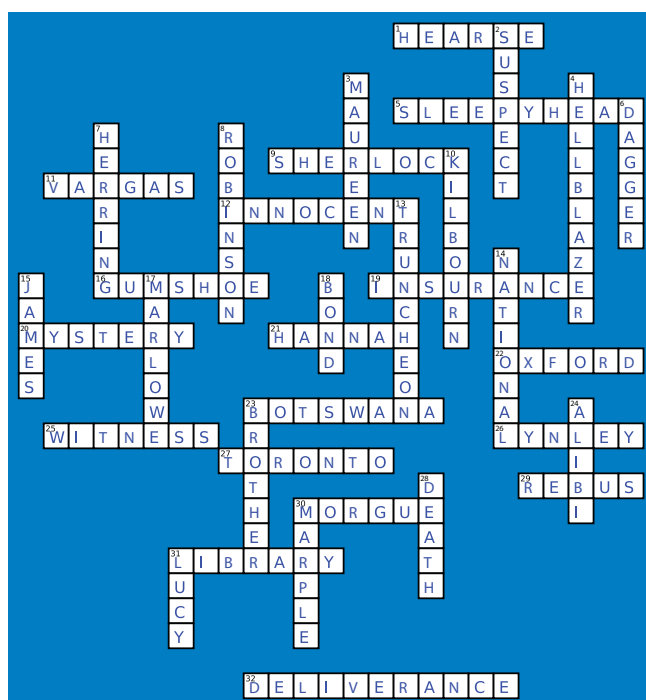
## Learn How to Blog

Do you want to create your own blog but don't know where to begin? WPL's TechTutors can help.

Whether you are a beginner or require more in-depth help, our knowledgeable volunteer trainers (TechTutors) can help you with your computer training needs. These one-on-one training sessions are free.

Visit the Information Desk at the Main Library or phone 519-886-1310 ext. 124 to reserve your TechTutor session.

## Mystery Lovers Crossword – Answers





In the good weather, Marley and owner Laura Arnold-Rhodes, are regular visitors to the Main Library.

## Dog Tags Available at WPL

WPL sells City of Waterloo Dog Tags at both the Main Library and the McCormick Branch circulation desks.

Each week the City, with the help of the Humane Society, reunites several dogs with their owners. This is possible because the dogs are registered with the City through a dog tag. The City wants to have as many dogs as possible registered and wearing dog tags, regardless of microchip identification that the owner may have purchased.

The money collected from dog licenses goes to the K-W Humane Society who do the work of getting lost dogs back to their owners.

The best rate available is before February 28, 2009, (or within 10 days of getting a dog). The fee is lower if the dog is spayed or neutered. Owners who are seniors get a discount.

Cash, personal cheque and Interac (at the Main only) are acceptable methods of payment.



## Fun Kids' Stories of Animals in the Library

There are many wonderful picture books about animals visiting the library. A few staff favourites include:

*Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies

*The Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen

*Carlo and the Really Nice Librarian* by Jessica Spanyol

*I.Q. Goes to the Library* by Mary Ann Fraser

*The Library Dragon* by Carmen Agra Deedy

*The Library Mouse* by Daniel Kirk

*When the Library Lights Go Out* by Megan McDonald

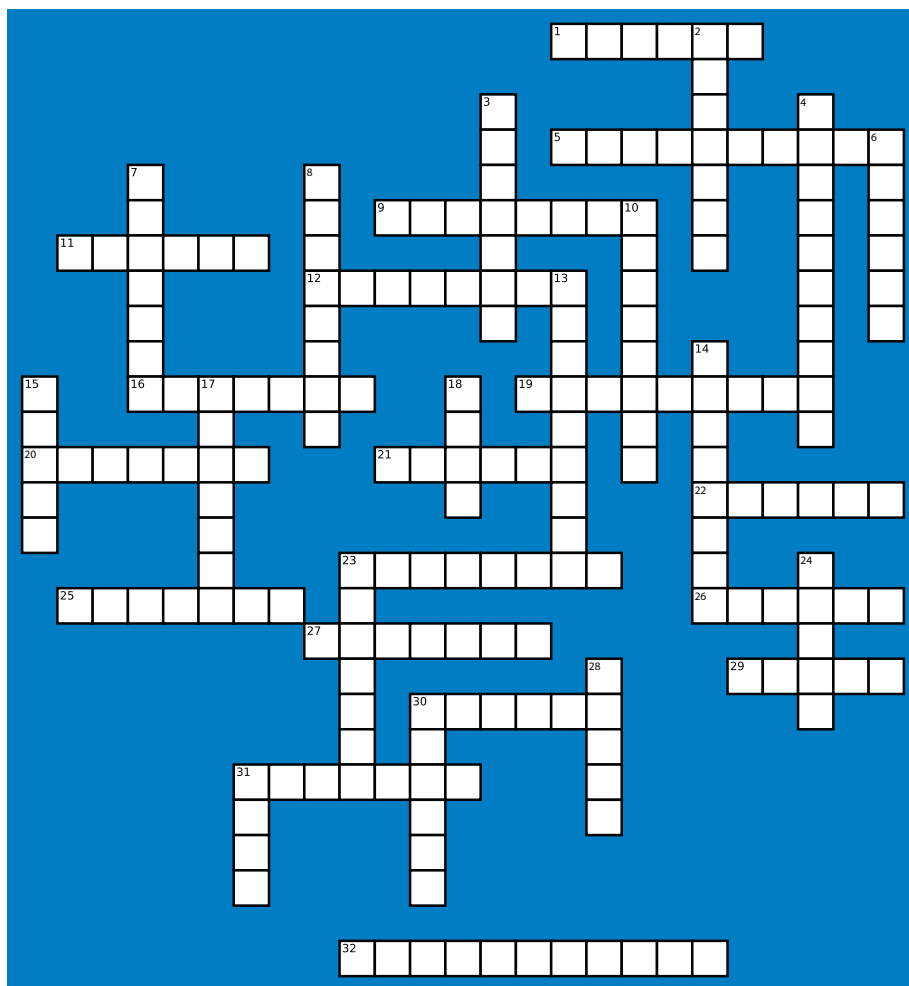
# Mystery Lovers Crossword

By Christine Brown

See page 14 of this newsletter for the answer key!

## ACROSS

1. Type of vehicle driven by undertakers
5. Mark Billingham's first crime novel
9. Famous fictional detective of late 19th century
11. Pseudonym of Frederique Audoin-Rouzeau
12. \_\_\_\_\_ until proven guilty (8 letters)
16. Detective
19. Before becoming a PI, Kinsey Millhone worked at this type of company
20. Something that is secret and unknown
21. Before playing Rebus he appeared as Matthew in Four Weddings
22. Location of Inspector Morse series
23. Location of the no. 1 ladies detective agency
25. Someone who saw the crime being committed
26. Nathaniel Parker plays this character in the TV series
27. Peter Robinson edited an anthology of mystery stories titled Noir \_\_\_\_\_ (7 letters)
29. Detective based in Scotland
30. Where people who have died are kept prior to the funeral
31. The body in the \_\_\_\_\_: a Miss Marple mystery (7 letters)
32. First in series featuring inspector Thomas Lynley a great \_\_\_\_\_ (11 letters)



## DOWN

2. Someone who could have committed the crime
3. Murdoch mysteries TV series based on books by \_\_\_\_\_ Jennings (7 letters)
4. Crime writer Denise Mina has also written for which comic book?
6. Henning Mankell's novel Sidetracked won the 2001 gold \_\_\_\_\_ award (6 letters)
7. False lead - red \_\_\_\_\_ (7 letters)
8. Author of series featuring detective chief inspector Alan Banks
10. This Saskatchewan-based detective is also a professor
13. Type of club used as a weapon
14. Anna Pigeon series takes place in these types of parks
15. Her novel was the inspiration for the movie Children of Men
17. Protagonist in Raymond Chandler's books
18. Stephanie Plum captures people who have skipped this
23. Haydor's character di Caffrey is haunted by the death of who?
24. An excuse that a suspect uses to prove they didn't commit a crime
28. Big sleep
30. Elderly spinster and amateur detective living in St. Mary Mead
31. Name of Kay Scarpetta's niece