



THE HAMILTON ASSOCIATION
FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF LITERATURE
SCIENCE AND ART
(HAALSA)

1857 – 2008

Celebrating 152 years of educational endeavour in Hamilton

Free Public Lectures
2009–2010 Series

Dates, Titles, Authors and Abstracts

All lectures will be held on a Saturday evening in

Room 1A1, Ewart Angus Centre
McMaster University Medical Centre

Paid parking is available on the McMaster campus

To inquire about a possible cancellation phone 905-527-0080

Membership forms are available online at

<http://www.haalsa.org>

Saturday Sept. 12, 2009 at 8 p.m.

The Art of Landscape Photography
by Eleanore and Richard Kosydar

Landscape photography has been pursued as a form of artistic expression since the early years of the camera. Some critics question whether photography can be considered a genuine art form, yet an undeniable gap exists between snapshots and fine landscape photographs.

Richard and Eleanore Kosydar, co-authors of *The Dundas Valley: Images of Beauty*, discuss their definition of fine art landscape images and examine how they are created at both the camera and the darkroom level. Memorable examples will be drawn from the work of many photographers, ranging from 20th century masters like Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter to the current generation.

The authors will include some of their own Dundas Valley photographs as they illustrate a variety of concepts, avoiding the technical details of mechanics in favour of a fine arts approach.

Saturday Oct. 17, 2009 at 8 p.m.*

Making a Canadian River
by Dr. H. V. Nelles

Millions of tourists and residents know the Bow River as it tumbles through Banff's spectacular scenery or carves an elegant arc through the city of Calgary. Fewer people know it as a heavily engineered, hard working river. The Bow has been dammed and plumbed, made to spin hydro-electric turbines, drive logs, and cleanse Calgary. Artificial lakes in the mountains rearrange its flow; downstream weirs and ditches divert it to irrigate a parched prairie. Far from being wild, the Bow is very much a human product: its fish are as manufactured as its altered flow, changed water quality and newly stabilized and forested banks. Yet it remains a widely admired natural phenomenon, one of Canada's iconic rivers.

Based upon his upcoming co-authored book, *The River Returns*, Professor Nelles brings this story of transformation full circle through an exploration of the recent revolution in environmental thinking and regulation.

Dr. Nelles is the L.R. Wilson Professor of Canadian History at McMaster University.

*** Annual General Meeting, 7:15 - 7:45 p.m.**
(for members only)

Saturday Nov. 14, 2009 at 8 p.m.

How 10 Plays Become a Season
by Joanna Falck

The process of choosing which plays will make up a Shaw Festival season is almost as dramatic as the plays themselves. Full of tension, plotting, joy and sorrow, it's an experience that few people are privy to.

This talk will shed light on this often secretive process and explain how and why the plays for the Shaw Festival's 2010 Season were chosen (and which plays didn't make the cut). What can the mandate of the theatre — to produce the plays of George Bernard Shaw, his contemporaries (1856–1950) and newer plays about that period — say to audiences today? How does the Festival's namesake continue to influence the choice of works?

Joanna Falck is the Literary Manager at the Shaw Festival, where she manages all aspects of new play development. She edited the first publication of Githa Sowerby's long lost 1924 play *The Stepmother*, produced at Shaw in 2008. She has also worked with playwrights from across Canada.

Saturday Dec. 12, 2009 at 8 p.m.

The Secret World of Bats
by Dr. Paul Faure

With over 1,000 species world wide and the ability to fly in total darkness, bats continue to fascinate humans. Yet bats also remain one of the most maligned, misunderstood and persecuted group of organisms on the planet.

Paul Faure explores the rich diversity and natural history of bats. We will learn about various bat species, diet and habitat, how they use sonar and how they are affected by wind farms and a newly discovered fungus associated with "white nose syndrome."

The talk will also discuss some common myths and misconceptions. For example: Do bats 'see' with their ears? Do bats ever get caught in people's hair? Do bats suck blood and do they eat other bats? Following the talk, Dr. Faure will demonstrate how researchers work with bats and study their echolocation.

Dr. Faure is Principal Investigator in the Bat Lab, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, at McMaster University.

The 11th Dr. John Rae Lecture

Saturday Jan. 9, 2010 at 8 p.m.

**Tracking the Thule Migration:
The Arrival of Inuit in Arctic Canada**
by Dr. Max Friesen

One of the central events in the Arctic past revolves around the migration of ancestral “Thule” Inuit from Alaska to Canada and Greenland around 1,000 years ago. Travelling by boat and dog sled, these early Inuit moved across an entire continent in only a few years, learning about their new environments as they went. New research is leading to a re-thinking of when and why this migration occurred. Were early Inuit looking for whales, trading for metal, or just trying to escape difficult conditions in their homeland?

Max Friesen will describe recent fieldwork that is beginning to answer these questions and reveal more details about how the earliest Inuit lived. Dr. Friesen is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto and has been undertaking fieldwork in the Canadian Arctic since 1986.

Saturday Feb. 6, 2010 at 8 p.m.

What Can Now Be Revealed
by Trevor Cole

An inside scoop into the making of Trevor Cole’s latest book. The book is a mystery, for now, but we have a few hints: action takes place in Canada and there’s a possible connection with Italy. The route may wander, but the journey promises to be enjoyable. As a Canadian writer with plenty of experience working for newspapers, magazines and, as a novelist, Trevor Cole has lots to talk about.

He is regarded as a talented, versatile writer — as a former magazine editor and senior writer at *Report on Business*, among other positions, Cole produced a satirical column that was popular with readers (though perhaps less so with the objects of his attention). His first two novels, *Norman Bray in the Performance of His Life* and *The Fearsome Particles*, contain his trademark, sometimes sardonic, humour as well as sensitive portrayals of family life and human failings. Both were nominated for Canadian and international awards and have been optioned for possible films.

For the Fall 2009 semester, Trevor Cole will be Writer in Residence at McMaster University.

Saturday March 13, 2010 at 8 p.m.

The Rocky Road to Better Health
by Dr. Brian Haynes

Health research could be really good for what ails you. So why aren't you likely to benefit — and what can you do about it?

The potential for "return on investment" from research is outstanding. But, despite all the spectacular advances in health care knowledge, the actual return remains dismal.

Evidence-Based Medicine is a bold, pan-world attempt to improve the links between sound evidence and health care practice, but there are two key weak links: patients and practitioners — both have difficulty changing their behaviour, even when the evidence to do so is overwhelming.

This presentation will wrestle with the problems of practitioners and patients in embracing better ways to improve health, and prospects for overcoming these problems.

On offer to overcome the problems will be knowledge translation, computerized support, shared decision making, and the ‘polypill’. Roles that the public and patients can play will be discussed and debated.

Brian Haynes is chief of the Health Information Research Unit at McMaster University and works in the diabetes clinic at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Saturday April 10, 2010 at 8 p.m.

**The Magic of Canadian Medical
Radioisotopes**
by Dr. Doug Boreham

Canada has been a world leader in medical isotope production and innovation. Following considerable change in Canada, the future of this industry is uncertain. However, many discoveries have led to treatments and cures for millions of people. The main isotopes used for most routine medical procedures are made in Canadian nuclear reactors located at Chalk River, Bruce Power and McMaster University.

Dr. Boreham will describe how medical isotopes are made and how they are used to image and treat disease. The radioactivity of the medical isotopes will be discussed and the effects of the radiation on the body will be explained. The overall aim of this presentation is to give the audience a better under-

standing of medical radioisotopes and the risks and benefits associated with their use in the clinic.

Doug Boreham is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Physics and Applied Radiation Science at McMaster.

HAALSA Awards Program

The Maitland Banting Silver Quill Award

Award(s) of up to \$200 are offered annually to teenage entrants in the Hamilton Public Library (HPL) Power of the Pen literary competition for short fiction showing an excellent command of language. The award is named in honour of the late Maitland Banting who championed and nurtured the award from its inception in 1987. Entry forms at any HPL branch.

Young Poet's Award

Award(s) of up to \$200 are offered annually to teenage entrants in HPL's Power of the Pen literary competition for poetry. Entry forms at any HPL branch.

da Vinci Science Fair Awards

Award(s) of up to \$300 are offered annually to teenage entrants in the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair, for creativity combined with sound understanding of the scientific method. See the BASEF website for registration details.

Donations for these awards and/or a membership are always gratefully accepted. Tax receipts are issued annually at the end of each calendar year.*

* CRA Charitable Business Number:
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The Hamilton Association is one of Canada's oldest independent non-profit cultural organizations. It has its origins in the Hamilton Scientific Association, founded in 1857, and counts among its founding members Dr. John Rae, famed Arctic explorer and physician, who served as the Association's second president.

Many prominent Hamilton and area organizations began with, or received early support from, the Hamilton Association, including the Hamilton Public Library, the Art Gallery of Hamilton, the Royal Botanical Gardens and McMaster University.

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