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# GEORGIAN TRIANGLE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

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*for people who love to learn*

**2025 - 2026  
Lectures**



GTLLI is a non-profit organization,  
founded in 1995.

We offer university-level lectures given by experts from various  
fields.

GTLLI is maintained by volunteers and funded by lecture  
registration fees.

**For more information:**

[www.GTLLI.ca](http://www.GTLLI.ca)

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## GTLLI COURSE REGISTRATION

### 2025 – 2026

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#### TICKETS

**includes videos**

<b>Perspectives</b> (5 lectures)	\$72
<b>Fall Series</b> (6 lectures)	\$72
<b>Winter Series</b> (6 lectures)	\$72
<b>Spring Series</b> (6 lectures)	\$72
<b>(plus HST)</b>	

#### NON-REFUNDABLE

*Check the website regularly for updates when  
tickets will be available for purchase.*

To receive GTLLI member communications, please  
go to [www.gtlli.ca](http://www.gtlli.ca) to create an account and receive email updates.

Feel free to share this brochure with your family and friends.

*We look forward to another engaging lineup for the  
2025-26 season!*

## PERSPECTIVE SERIES 2025: A COLLECTION OF INDEPENDENT LECTURES

Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct 3

This five-part series is a collection of independent lectures designed to enlighten, engage and inform. This year, the topics provide a window on Cleopatra VII, the environment, equity, international relations and art.

### SEP 5: MONARCH, MOTHER, MURDERER, MONSTROSITY? REFLECTIONS ON CLEOPATRA VII

This lecture will discuss one of the most enigmatic figures in history: the last queen of the Ptolemaic Dynasty, Cleopatra VII. Assessing our historical sources on Cleopatra is a fascinating and challenging task. The literary sources are nearly all pro-Roman and paint a portrait of the queen that is loathsome and unnatural; she is a woman in a man's world, wielding a predatory sexuality, and representing an existential threat to all "right-thinking" Romans.

**Dr. Sheila Ager** is a full professor in the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Waterloo, where she has been since 1987. She recently served as the Dean of Waterloo's Faculty of Arts. Professor Ager is the author or editor of four books and numerous articles on Greek and Roman history, with a particular interest in ancient interstate relations, peaceful conflict resolution, and female monarchy.

### SEP 12: HARMFUL CHEMICALS IN AND AROUND US

All of us, from infants to the elderly, and birds and bees, are inevitably but unequally exposed to harmful chemicals. These exposures contribute to recent concerning trends of adverse effects in humans and population declines in animals. We have surprisingly little information on most chemicals: the rate of chemical production and use far outstrips the capacity for assessment, let alone to develop control measures. Thus, society should act with precaution based on costs of inaction.

**Dr. Miriam L. Diamond** is a professor at the University of Toronto. For over 30 years, her research has advanced knowledge of chemical emissions, their transport processes, and resultant human and ecological exposure. She is now focusing on chemicals management. Diamond's science and policy research has been published in over 250 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, in addition to receiving media attention.

### SEP 19: SEARCHING FOR EQUALITY IN A TIME OF BACKLASH

The rights of women and non-binary people are under attack around the world. How did we get here, what does it mean for the future, and why should we be fighting for a more just world?

**Elizabeth Renzetti** is a bestselling author and journalist. She is the author of several books, most recently the national bestseller *What She Said: Conversations About Equality*. She's also the author, alongside Kate Hilton, of the Quill & Packet mystery series. In her career as a journalist, Elizabeth reported from London, Los Angeles, Toronto, and Berlin, and wrote a popular column on current affairs in *The Globe and Mail*. She has twice won the Landsberg Prize for reporting on gender issues.

### SEP 26: MAKING SENSE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN TODAY'S WORLD

Following the 2024 election in the United States, swift changes emanated from the White House. Decisions were made, and actions were carried out that resulted in breaking or seriously weakening crucial pillars of the postwar international order. What has transpired since? How has the academic study of international politics been impacted? Does it leave international relations scholars, such as myself, with any useful predictive or analytical tools?

**Dr. David A. Welch** is University Research Chair and Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. He teaches global governance and international security at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. He has written extensively on international politics, particularly international crises.

### OCT 3: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN AND TOM THOMSON

For almost five decades, Sue and Jim Waddington have searched for the places that inspired the Group of Seven painters and Tom Thomson. They particularly enjoy finding sites that can only be accessed by canoe and on foot. The presentation will compare photographs of some of the 800 painting sites they have found with the corresponding artwork. They will discuss how they find these painting sites and what they have learned about the painters and their art.

**Sue Waddington** is a retired nurse and a traditional rug hooker. Her rug hooking designs have won awards at the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild. In 1977, a painting by A.Y. Jackson inspired one of her rugs and also sparked the couple's lifelong hobby. **Jim Waddington** is a retired physics professor from McMaster University; however, he quickly adds that he has no artistic talent. In 2010, their photographs and the original artworks were exhibited at the McMichael Gallery.

FALL SERIES BELOW

## FALL SERIES 2025: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF MUSIC

Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14, 21

Have you ever considered that music is more than just entertainment? These lectures will explore our innate ability to identify rhythm and beat. As well, they will examine how music impacts our emotions, our health and well-being, and how it can be used as a means to foster connections with others.

### OCT 17: HOW RHYTHM AND TIMING STRUCTURE EXPERIENCE: FROM MUSIC TO SOCIAL INTERACTION

Rhythms are ubiquitous in biological systems, from motor movements to speech and music. Humans use motor brain regions for musical timing; auditory-motor interactions are present early in development; and even the premature infant brain encodes auditory rhythms. The lecture will end with the social role of rhythmic movements in human interactions from coordination in musical ensembles to pro-social behaviour in infants.

**Dr. Laurel Trainor** (McMaster University) is a Fellow, Royal Society of Canada; Canadian Institute for Advanced Research; and Association for Psychological Science. Honours include an SMPC Lifetime Achievement Award. She directs the McMaster Institute for Music and Mind's LIVElab, a unique research-concert hall. She has published over 200 articles including in *Science* and *Nature*, and is also principal flute, Burlington Symphony.

### OCT 24: MUSIC AS THERAPY

This presentation will give you a brief introduction into the evidence-based practice of Neurologic Music Therapy (NMT), and a glimpse into how elements of music can be used to influence non-musical brain and behaviour functions. Dr. Hurt-Thaut will introduce the healing power of music, discuss NMT methods in neurorehabilitation, and share a variety of therapeutic music interventions and clinical examples.

**Dr. Corene Hurt-Thaut** is nationally and internationally recognized for her research and clinical expertise in the evidence-based practice of Neurologic Music Therapy. She is the co-founder and executive director of The Academy for Neurologic Therapy. Dr Hurt-Thaut holds appointments as an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Toronto Faculty and at the ArtEZ School of Music in the Netherlands.

### OCT 31: USING MUSIC TO CHANGE THE KEY OF CONFLICT

21st-century conflict demands 21st-century solutions – innovative approaches that recognize the importance of relationships, our interconnectedness and interdependence as a global community. Music creates both a means and a space for intercultural dialogue and contact between opposing groups. The use of group music-making as a pre-, during, and post-conflict initiative brings parties together across lines of divide to communicate, negotiate, and connect at a fundamental level, with the potential to bring about change and transformation.

**Dr. Linda M Ippolito** is a classical pianist, litigation lawyer, dispute resolution practitioner, teacher, and scholar. She studied music at the Juilliard School in New York and the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, and law at Osgoode Hall Law School. Linda has performed as a soloist, vocal collaborator and duo pianist. She practices law in Toronto and teaches at Osgoode Professional Development.

### NOV 7 EMOTION IN MUSIC

Over the past several decades, the field of music cognition has made tremendous progress into understanding how music conveys emotion. This talk will discuss new insight into how composers and performers craft musical messages; a topic which has fascinated some of the most curious minds in history—dating back to Darwin and even Plato.

**Dr. Michael Schutz** is Professor of Music Cognition/Percussion at McMaster, where he conducts the percussion ensemble and directs the MAPLE Lab. His "[TEDx talk Death by Beep](#)" discussing musical approaches to medical device alerts has received over 1 million views, and his research is covered regularly in the media (CBC, Global News, Scientific American, *On the Nature of Things*, Boston Globe).

## NOV 14: THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC PARTICIPATION IN OLDER ADULTS

Active music participation enhances auditory processing, including speech perception in noise — a common challenge for older adults with age-related hearing loss. This talk explores research from my lab and others, demonstrating that musical engagement can yield benefits even in those without prior training and over a short period, offering a promising avenue for improving communication in aging populations.

**Dr. Frank Russo** is a Full Professor of Psychology at Toronto Metropolitan University, where he directs the Science of Music Auditory Research and Technology (SMART) Lab. He is also the Scientific Director of SingWell, an international consortium on singing, communication, and wellbeing. With 100+ publications and \$10M+ in funding, he is a leading researcher in auditory neuroscience, with particular expertise in topics concerning music, hearing, and speech.

## NOV 21: MUSIC AS A VEHICLE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community music is a growing field in Canada, where at its core, it removes barriers and provides access to music education. Drawing from his teaching manual, *How to Play Your World* (2017, Musagetes), Dr. Marsella will unpack unique and transformative models in community music, from noise parades to musical playgrounds.

**Dr. Richard Marsella** is the Executive Director at Community Music Schools of Toronto, one of Canada's largest community music schools. Dr. Marsella is also adjunct professor at Toronto Metropolitan University, in the Faculty of the School of Early Childhood Studies. As an experimental musician and composer, Dr. Marsella strives to bring alternative methods into the music room.

WINTER SERIES BELOW

## WINTER SERIES 2026: BATS, BUTTERFLIES, BEARS, BEES, BIRDS AND BASIDIOMYCOTA (FUNGI) IN ONTARIO

Jan 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13

Why are so many animal groups in decline in Ontario? This series will introduce 5 important animal groups plus the fungi (neither plant nor animal!). Speakers will discuss the importance, the biodiversity and the threats to the survival of these specific groups.

### JAN 9: EXPLORING THE LIVES OF BATS IN ONTARIO

This lecture will explore how bats “see the world with their ears”. The ecology and behaviour of Ontario’s eight bat species will be discussed and the speaker will dispel many misconceptions about this amazing group of mammals.

**Dr. Brock Fenton** is an Emeritus Professor of Biology at Western University. Known as Canada’s batman, his research focuses on the ecology, evolution and behaviour of bats, and he has published widely about them, from research papers to books intended for the lay reader. As a world authority on bats, he continues to be an active author and an outstanding photographer of these amazing mammals.

### JAN 16: BUTTERFLIES IN ONTARIO AND REPATRIATING SPECIES AT RISK

This presentation will explore the importance, the biodiversity and threats to butterflies in Ontario. The speaker will also provide an overview of the Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Team’s efforts and research to reintroduce butterflies back to tallgrass habitats they once occupied.

**Jessica Linton** is a Senior Biologist at Natural Resource Solutions, a consulting firm located in Waterloo. For the last 20 years, a large proportion of her work has focused on butterfly (and other insect) conservation. In 2017 she founded the Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Recovery Team.

### JAN 23: EXPLORING THE LIVES OF BLACK BEARS AND POLAR BEARS IN ONTARIO

This presentation will explore the ecology and behaviour of black bears in Ontario, the drivers of human-bear conflict, and why bears are predisposed to come into conflict with humans. Much of the talk will focus on the nearby Saugeen Peninsula black bear population, including the threats to that population. The speaker will also review the ecology of polar bears in Ontario.

**Dr. Martyn Obbard** is an Emeritus Research Scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Adjunct Professor in the Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program at Trent University. He retired in 2016 after a 32 year career with the Ministry, including 28 in the Wildlife Research Section studying black bears and polar bears in Ontario.

### JAN 30: CREATING LANDSCAPES FOR THE FLOURISHING OF BEES

Bees in Ontario face several threats to their health and/or population including habitat and forage loss, pests and pathogens, climate change and pesticides. This talk will highlight the main threats facing both native bees and honeybees, while taking a hopeful perspective on the potential of ecological approaches to agriculture, gardening and beekeeping to create landscapes for the flourishing of bees.

**Dr. Rebecca Ellis** is a Professor of Environmental Sustainability in the School of Climate Action at Mohawk College. She holds a Ph.D. in Human Geography from Western University and a B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology from Western University. She is the author of the book *Capitalist Agriculture and the Global Bee Crisis* (2023).

## FEB 6: EXPLORING THE LIVES OF BIRDS IN ONTARIO

This talk will look at the past, present and future of Ontario's birds, including historical changes to our avifauna; the ecological and social role of birds today; the threats facing Ontario's birds in the future; and what is being done to protect them.

**Dr. Ronald Orenstein** (Ph.D. Univ. of Michigan) is a zoologist, lawyer, wildlife conservationist and author of thirteen books including *Orangutans: Their History, Natural History and Conservation*, published in 2024. Dr. Orenstein has been a registered observer at meetings of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) for over thirty years. In 1989 he helped engineer an international ban on the ivory trade.

## FEB 13: EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BASIDIOMYCOTA (FUNGI)

Fungi are everywhere in our world — in the soil beneath our feet, in the air we breathe, and even in and on our own bodies — yet this kingdom of life often remains under-explored. In this lecture, the speaker will introduce this fascinating fungal kingdom, from the mushrooms we eat to the microscopic yeasts and moulds that produce everything from bread and wine to life-saving antibiotics. Discover how fungi shape ecosystems, support agriculture, and influence human health and technology.

**Dr. Rebecca Shapiro** is an Associate Professor in Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Guelph and Canada Research Chair in Microbial Functional Genomics and Synthetic Biology, with expertise in fungal infectious diseases, genetics and genomics, and engineering fungal genomes. Dr. Shapiro's current research develops cutting-edge CRISPR-based tools for functional genomic analysis, with applications to studying virulence and drug resistance in fungal pathogens.

**SPRING SERIES BELOW**

## SPRING SERIES 2026: ADDICTED TO PRINT: REFLECTIONS ON THE JOYS OF READING

Mar 20, 27, Apr 10, 17, 24, May 1

Why do we read? Sometimes we're looking for information, sometimes for an engaging narrative, and occasionally just for the pleasures of the written word. We can explore issues that challenge us, but we can also escape into worlds very different from our own. What can we learn when we examine our own reading experience, from our earliest texts to what we read last week? Dr. Gary Draper will be giving all 6 lectures in the series.

**Dr. Gary Draper** is a retired English Professor (St. Jerome's University) with a doctorate in 19th-century Canadian Literature (Western University). He has taught a wide variety of third age learning courses. Dr. Draper has been an editor, a book reviewer, and a collector of Canadian cookbooks and remains an avid reader, an occasional gardener and a passable solver of crossword puzzles.

### MAR 20: BEGINNING

Every reader has a starting point, or a constellation of them. Who read or sang to you? What did you first read to yourself? It can be illuminating to look at our earliest texts and consider where we found them and what they gave us.

### MAR 27: ESCAPING

Sometimes the world can be too much with us and we need to step out of our lives and into a book that takes us far from the world we must inhabit. Mystery, adventure, and imaginary worlds so different from our own can be just a bookshelf away.

### APR 10: ENGAGING AND STRETCHING

All books change us in some way, some more than others. We can learn more about ourselves and about the world we live in through reading. Leaving our comfort zone can be challenging or energizing or enlightening. Sometimes it's all three at once.

### APR 17: PAYING ATTENTION TO FORM (FICTION)

The novel has a long history and enduring appeal. What are some of the reasons for its continuing popularity? And what about short stories? In this Age of Distraction, shorter forms of fiction can offer outsize rewards, without demanding an extended time commitment in return.

### APR 24: PAYING ATTENTION TO FORM (POETRY)

Does anybody read poetry anymore? If not, why not? More importantly, if so, why? Many of us leave poetry behind when we leave school. It can be revealing to come back to poetry not to exercise our critical skills but just for the joy of language.

### MAY 1: GETTING ON

It can be illuminating to read about old age, whether you find your reading in the self-help section, in fiction, or in poetry. It can also be interesting to ask if our reading habits change as we age. If so, how, and why? Are there any changes we wish to make, or feel we ought to?

END OF THE 2025-2026 YEAR