

INFLUENTIAL CANADIANS WHO SHAPED THE 20th CENTURY

Thursdays, October 20 to December 8, 2016, 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon
Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 81 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke

Coordinator and Presenter:

Daniel R. Laxer received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Toronto. Specializing in early Canada, he is currently working his dissertation into a book for McGill-Queens University press.

- October 20** **Wilfrid Laurier:** With “Sunny Ways”, and a genius for the skilful compromise, such as the creation of the Canadian Navy in 1910, he held on to the support of those who wanted close ties with the British Empire and those who wanted more independence for Canada. These same gifts enabled our first Francophone Prime Minister to govern with the strong backing of both English and French Canadians.
- October 27** **Marius Barbeau:** As an anthropologist and folklorist, his exhibits and publications on the folk songs and stories of French Canadians and First Nations served to foster their appreciation in English Canada. While some of his theories and methodologies have been subject to criticism, his collections and notes comprise a major component of the Canadian Museum of History.
- November 3** **Emily Murphy:** Intellectual, author, feminist and activist, and the first female magistrate in the British Empire, she was one of the “Famous Five” who fought for the right of women to vote and receive equal recognition under the law. Even as her ground-breaking legacy has been celebrated, her ideas about race, drugs and eugenics have been critiqued.
- November 10** **J. Murray Gibbon:** Canadian Pacific Railway marketer and cultural promoter who popularized the term “Canadian mosaic”. As a member of the Canadian Music Council and founding president of the Canadian Authors’ Association, Gibbon actively sought to bridge the cultural divisions of Canada with folklore and song, organizing CPR festivals across the country.
- November 17** **Emily Carr:** After training in art in California, England and France, she returned to her home in Victoria, where she became inspired by the west coast First Nations and the rugged west coast landscape. Showing her pieces at the National Gallery of Canada, and being welcomed by members of the Group of Seven, her renewed passion for painting inspired her most famous works.
- November 24** **William Aberhart:** As the founding leader of the Alberta Social Credit Party and Premier from 1935 to 1943, “Bible Bill” took power during the Great Depression preaching a brand of right-wing populism. He identified the individual’s lack of purchasing power as the root cause of the Depression, and promised a monthly cheque from the provincial government as the solution. .
- December 1** **William Lyon Mackenzie King:** As Prime Minister for almost 22 years, in peace and war, he played an important role in maintaining national unity and laying the foundations of the Canadian welfare state. With meticulousness, calculation and luck, he made up for what he lacked in charisma. He did hold a strong personal belief in spiritualism: to what extent, if any, did it influence his political decisions?
- December 8** **Tommy Douglas:** He was a Baptist minister, pioneering socialist and member of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF). He held elected office as a Member of Parliament (1935-1944) and the Premier of Saskatchewan (1944-1961). As Premier, he introduced the first universal health care system in North America. Primarily for this accomplishment, he was voted “Greatest Canadian” by viewers of the 2004 CBC television series of the same name.

Researcher: Shirley Hartt

Full information regarding registration and payment is available elsewhere on the web site.