

Sherlock Holmes at the Museum

By Hannelore Voipe

The game is afoot!
An evening celebrating Sherlock Holmes awaits fans of the great detective as well as neophytes at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Saturday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m.

It is centred around a three-course Victorian-inspired dinner, with the historical ambience of the museum setting the mood, and features internationally-renowned Sherlock Holmes expert Doug Wrigglesworth. He will give a cinematic overview of the various portrayals of Holmes, from "silent to Cumberbatch", as he put it, talking about the man and his times with humour, a great sense of the history of the time and a great affection for this character.

Actors' depictions of the austere, seemingly emotionless consulting detective have ranged from very good to the very opposite. As one example, Nigel Bruce's Dr. Watson earned him the appellation "Boobus Britannicus" when he acted alongside Basil Rathbone in the Sherlock Holmes films running from 1939 to 1946. This was not Watson as author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle saw him, according to Mr. Wrigglesworth.

The evening at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum will conjure up the atmosphere of the times: the thick London fogs, gas lamps, communication by telegram and travel by horse-drawn cab. In later stories, Holmes has the newest in technology at his disposal: electric lights, the telephone and the motorcar.

Mr. Wrigglesworth is the founding chair of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library, an international group who support this unique bibliographic treasure. He is also a

long time member, and Master Bootmaker, of the Bootmakers of Toronto, Canada's senior Sherlockian organization, is an invested member of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York and a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in England.

First appearing in *A Study in Scarlet* published in Beeton's Christmas Annual of 1887, Sherlock Holmes continues to be the "most frequently portrayed character in movies or TV or any kinds of media," according to Mr. Wrigglesworth.

The Hound of the Baskervilles is the single most depicted story on the screen.

The Hound of the Baskervilles is the single most depicted story on the screen.

Holmes has become so real to people over the decades that readers have sent him letters addressed to 221B

Baker Street in London, England, offering marriage proposals, seeking advice on beekeeping or looking for his help in solving their real-life mysteries.

Holmes' domestic habits at 221B Baker Street, his and Watson's first lodgings together, were a trial for their long-suffering landlady, Mrs. Hudson. She had to put up with Holmes' occasional indoor pistol practice, clouds of smoke from the shag tobacco he preferred and his smelly chemical experiments.

Stephen Sword will be bringing Holmes and other characters to life at various points during the dinner.

Local resident Stephen Sword will be bringing Holmes and other characters to life at various points during the dinner, as he and a cast of intrepid local talent present vignettes from the most notable Sherlock Holmes stories.

The idea for this evening grew after Mr. Sword took three of his Sherlock Holmes cookbooks to the museum. At first, the talk was of perhaps reproducing some of the recipes. That soon expanded into inviting a Sherlockian expert for a full-fledged Sherlock Holmes event.

Mr. Sword caught the Sherlock Holmes

bug early.

"I read Holmes as a young person, as many of us do, and got caught up," he said. "They are just good stories... It is amazing how many people like Sherlock Holmes."

Mr. Sword has continued his fascination with this character and has amassed a library of more than 300 books, videos and games, as well as a wealth of knowledge. He noted that John Lennon wrote a short story take-off on Sherlock Holmes.

The three-course dinner is being catered by Christina Cooks Catering from Stouffville. There are a couple of entrees to choose from and you make your choice when purchasing your ticket, which is \$55 per person.

Call 905-727-8954 or 1-888-290-0337 for reservations. (Space is limited.)

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum is at 14732 Woodbine Ave., south of Aurora Road.

Regular museum hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. It is closed Sunday and Monday.



It's time to think about Winter Tires

Purchase a set of tires* and get:

FREE Mount and Balance
and
FREE Alignment Check

Ask us about tires for any import or domestic vehicle.

We carry a wide selection of the top tire brands. Our trained professionals will help select the best tire for your driving needs.



Stouffville
TOYOTA

Getting There. Starts Here.

Sales: (905) 642-6688 or (416) 921-1288
Service: (905) 642-9558

www.stouffvilletoyota.ca

*Offer expires Dec. 31st, 2014.
See www.stouffvilletoyota.ca for full details.



Illustration by the original Sherlock Holmes illustrator, Sydney Pajet
Courtesy of Doug Wrigglesworth.



**Turack Raguseo
Lesti Gilliatt LLP**
Chartered Accountants

HERE TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY WITH THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Personal & Corporate Tax Preparation · Accounting & Auditing
Business Advisory Services & Valuations · Estate Planning · Financial Forecasts

6335 MAIN STREET, STOUFFVILLE
905-640-1991 · FAX 905-640-1998 · EMAIL: INFO@TURACK.CA · WWW.TURACK.CA

