

May 2010

Dear Summer Seminarists,

July is drawing near and we at Classical Pursuits are looking forward to a wonderful week together.

First a reminder that we will be moving – but not very far. Veterans of Toronto Pursuits have come to feel very much at home on the garden campus of University of Toronto's St. Michael's College. But because St. Mike's will be experiencing extensive construction and renovation this summer, we are moving "next door" to the equally beautiful Victoria College.

<http://www.vicu.utoronto.ca/site4.aspx>

It will take only a few minutes to find your way around and feel at home.

Second, a reminder to all Americans. A valid passport is required to enter Canada. You do not want to face being turned back at the border or at the airport. It needs to be valid for at least six months after your departure from Canada.

And a coveted spot has become available for our Sunday, July 11 all-day excursion to the Stratford Festival. \$150 Cdn includes transportation in a luxury coach, a premium ticket to *The Tempest* starring Christopher Plummer, talk en route about the history of the festival, back stage tour, and boxed lunch. Please contact Eva Elo at eva.elo@classicalpursuits.com, if interested.

A few tickets are still available for the dinner/cabaret evening of the songs and letters of Kurt Weill. Cost is \$38.

We encourage you to do your reading before you come. Of course, if you can manage it, a second reading is even better. Because the seminars are largely guided conversations among the participants, the quality of the experience depends on people having read in advance, coming with their own questions or puzzles about the work, and arriving with an open mind. If you have any doubt about what editions of the book(s) you should be reading, they are listed in both the brochure and on the website.

In an effort to go green, we are sending our final mailing electronically. We have prepared the attached participant handbook.

It contains information including:

- Getting here
- Campus Map

- Registration kit pick up
- Sunday Orientation Activities (Optional)
- Welcome Reception (Monday)
- Old Vic (The Hub of Activities)
- Schedule of Activities
- Student Residence
- Parking
- Dress
- Canadian Currency
- Physical Activity
- Opera with Iain Scott
- Phone contact

Balance of fees:

Congratulations for acting fast to avoid (for this year, at least) the new HST (Harmonized Services Tax). Eva Elo will contact you if you have a balance owing. Or you can contact her at eva.elo@classicalpursuits.com or 905- 967-0160 to settle accounts or with any questions regarding payment or registration.

Finally, I have included a link to “Getting the Most out of Literature” written by John Agresto, former president of St. John’s College in Santa Fe. Many of you will have seen this supplementary reading before. It offers a “little academic heresy in the name of common sense.” It is my favorite piece on the subject and speaks for itself, especially since I have recently been part of an animated and provocative discussion of *The Scarlett Letter* at Great Books Chicago.

I have also included **Toronto: Places to Go & Things to Do**, a very helpful sheet for out-of-towners. You may be tempted to add a day or two on to your stay to experience more of our lovely city. It was prepared by Rhona Wolpert, a frequent participant in Toronto Pursuits.

Still have questions? Call or email us, and we will be happy to answer them.

We look forward to seeing all of you in only a few weeks, both new comers and old timers.

Meantime, happy reading,

Ann

Ann Kirkland



CLASSICAL *pursuits*®

July 2010

Participant Handbook

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Checklist

Please review the checklist below. If you have information to provide to us, please do so immediately.

- Have you made arrangements to pay the balance of your fees by June 1, 2010
- For non-Canadians travelling to Toronto from out of the country, have you checked your passport to ensure it is valid for more than 6 months after your planned departure from Canada?
- If you are staying in Rowell Jackman Hall, the student residence on campus, please inform us of the date and time of your arrival and your departure date.
- We have placed our Soulpepper Theatre group order for David French's *Jitters* and Ivan Turgenev's *A Month in the Country* on Thursday evening, July 15. If you have not yet ordered a ticket but would like to attend a performance, you can order single tickets directly from the box office at 416.866.8666. <http://www.youngcentre.ca/productions/index.html>
- There is still time to reserve space at the dinner/cabaret performance of Bremner Duthie's *Speak Low - the life, love and music of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya*. The date is Tuesday, July 13. the location is a small theatre close to the campus. The cost is \$38.
- Have you read the texts that you will be discussing in your seminar?

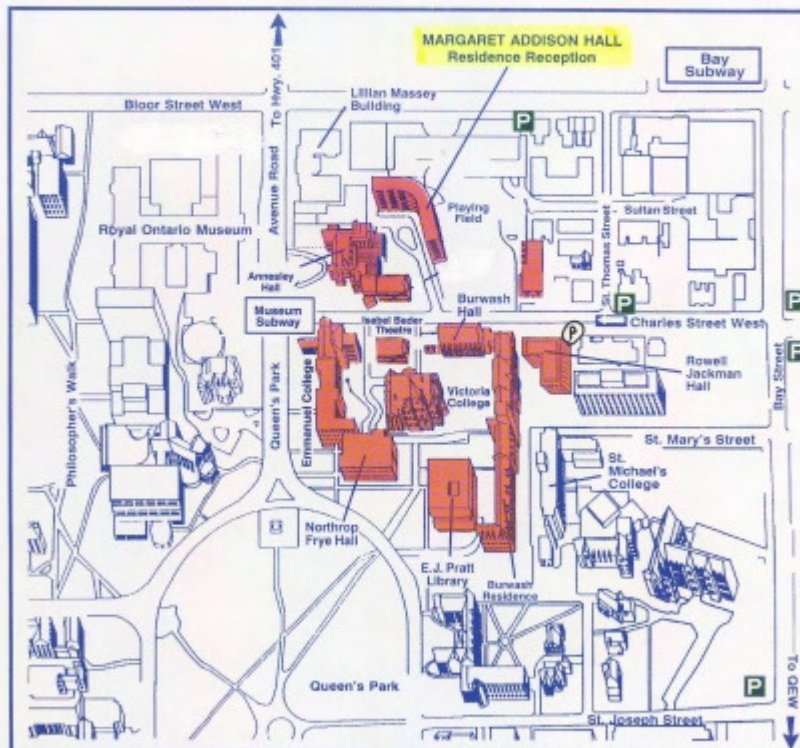
You can contact us at info@classicalpursuits.com or 416-892-3580 / 1-877-633-2555.

Getting Here

Victoria University in the University of Toronto
Margaret Addison Hall Front Desk
140 Charles Street West
Toronto ON M5S 1K9
416-585-4524 (24 hrs)

Victoria University Campus

Victoria University is situated in downtown Toronto, across from the Royal Ontario Museum and McLaughlin Planetarium. The Parliament Buildings, Eaton Centre and City Hall are nearby and both subway lines are within a minute's walk from the residents.



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
140 Charles Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1K9

Arriving by Air: From Toronto's Pearson International Airport, you can either take the Airport Express shuttle to the Delta Chelsea Hotel (C\$20) and then get a taxi from there for the short ride to the campus or take limousine from the airport (about C\$55).

If you are coming from Montreal, Ottawa, New York, Boston or Chicago, you may wish to explore the option of choosing Porter Airlines. Porter flies into Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, conveniently located on an island in Toronto Harbour, just offshore of the city's downtown and connected to the mainland by very short ferry. <https://www.flyporter.com/>. A taxi from the mainland terminal to the campus will cost about \$15.

Arriving by Public Transit: Take the Bloor Line subway to the Bay Station. Walk south on Bay Street one block until you come to Charles Street West. Turn right and walk towards 140 Charles Street West (Margaret Addison Hall).

Alternatively, take the Yonge/University/Spadina line to Museum Station. Exit on the east side of Queen's Park, Charles Street West is at the top of the stairs. Turn right and walk less than half a block to Margaret Addison Hall (which is on the north side of the street).

Arriving by Car: Classical Pursuits participants arrive from all over. For more detailed and personalized driving directions and maps we suggest visiting <http://maps.google.com/>.

Following are general directions from various directions to Toronto and to 140 Charles Street West (Margaret Addison Hall).

- **[from the north:] Exit Hwy 401 at Avenue Road**, and drive south until you reach Bloor Street. Turn left at Bloor and continue until you reach Bay Street, turn right at Bay and drive one block south, turn right on Charles Street West and proceed to #140 (there is a circular driveway set back from the road).
- **[from the west:] Exit the Gardner Expressway/QEW at Bay Street** and drive north on Bay Street. Turn left on Charles Street West and proceed to #140.
- **[from the east:] Exit the 404/DVP at Bloor Street** and drive west toward Bay Street. Turn left on Jarvis Street and drive one block south. Turn right on Charles Street West and proceed to #140
Note: there may be construction requiring an alternate route.

Registration Kit pick up

When you arrive, you will receive a kit with local information about Toronto, the campus, details of events, your seminar room assignment, name tag and any theatre tickets you have ordered.

Saturday registration: Visit 140 Charles Street West (Margaret Addison Hall)
We will be open on Saturday, July 10 from 1 pm to 6 pm.

Sunday registration: Visit 140 Charles Street West (Margaret Addison Hall)
We will be open on Sunday, July 11 from 10 am to 6 pm.
Sunday activities are optional, and you may also register Monday morning.

Monday registration: Visit the ABB Moore Foyer in Victoria College ('Old Vic') (see map), where we will hand out kits from 8:15 am to 9:15 am before the morning seminars, which start at 9:30 am.

NOTE: If you are staying in Rowell Jackman Hall, the student residence, please notify us if you will be arriving outside of our registration hours, so we can arrange to meet you and escort you to your room.

Campus Residence – Rowell Jackman Hall (If you are staying off campus or are a local, please skip to the next section)

ARRIVAL: During regular registration hours, your room key will be at the registration desk in lobby of 140 Charles Street West (Margaret Addison Hall)

DROP OFF/TAXIS: Ask to be dropped off right in front of 140 Charles Street West (Margaret Addison Hall). In terms of major intersections, this is south of Bloor Street and just west of Bay Street.

PARKING: If you are driving and require parking, consult the relevant general information section below.

PORTERING: On Sunday, July 11th between 10 am and 6 pm, Classical Pursuits staff will be on hand to meet participants as they arrive at Margaret Addison Hall to help carry luggage and escort participants to their rooms.

AFTER HOURS ARRIVALS: If you expect to arrive outside registration hours on Saturday, July 10 or Sunday, July 11, please notify us as early as possible at info@classicalpursuits.com. You will need to pick up your room keycard from Front Desk in Margaret Addison Hall and receive directions to your room from the residence staff.

PHONES: Each floor at Rowell Jackman Hall has a public courtesy telephone, allowing guests to make local calls by dialling “9”. Long distance calls require a phone card, which can be purchased at any local convenience store. In terms of incoming calls, you can provide your family and friends the phone number for Front Desk (emergencies only) and messages will be posted on the bulletin board in the ABB Moore Foyer in Victoria College (‘Old Vic’).

HOUSEKEEPING AND LAUNDRY SERVICES: Housekeeping services include fresh bed linens, and one medium-sized towel, provided once for the week. Hangers and extra towels can be obtained from Front Desk upon request. Laundry Facilities are available in Rowell Jackman Hall. Laundry cards can be obtained at Front Desk.

PACKING: You may wish to bring a clock, a radio and a few extra hangers and a fluffy towel of your own (ideally not white, so as not confuse it with residence towels). You may also want to bring an extra pillow, if you prefer to sleep with two.

MEALS: Hot buffet breakfast for those in residence is served in the Burwash Dining Hall, next door to Rowell Jackman Hall, from 7:00 - 9:30 am. Show the cashier your room keycard plus your Classical Pursuits nametag. Anyone not staying in Rowell Jackman Hall is welcome join the other guests by buying a breakfast ticket at the Front Desk, as discussed below in Opportunities to Socialize over Meals.

Weekday lunch for all Classical Pursuits participants is served immediately following the morning seminars in Alumni Hall, Victoria College (‘Old Vic’).

Dinner is not included. There are many restaurants for every budget within walking distance. A full local restaurant guide will be in your registration kit. You are invited to join a seminar leader for a group dinner, departing from Old Vic at 6 pm.

CHECKING OUT: Check out time is 11 am. You will need to return your room key to the Summer Residence Front Desk.

Victoria University Summer Residence Rules & Regulations

- Guests should always ensure that their doors are tightly locked when leaving; the College cannot be held responsible for missing property.
- Cooking in rooms is prohibited. However, small refrigerators are available in the common room in each suite.
- No guests are allowed to stay in a resident's room.
- Burning of incense or candles is not permitted in the residence rooms, common rooms, or elsewhere in the buildings.
- There is NO SMOKING in the residence rooms, common rooms or anywhere in the buildings.

The Summer Residence Front Desk staff can answer inquiries and assist guests during their stay. Front Desk operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and can be reached at 416-585-4524.

Important Numbers:

Summer Residence Front Desk	(416) 585-4524
Toronto Emergency Services:	911 (Toll free)

The rooms in Rowell Jackman Hall are organized in suites with four, five or six bedrooms clustered around a common sitting room and kitchen. There is one washroom for every two or three bedrooms. It would be courteous to check with your suitemates before inviting friends to visit the common space.

You may purchase groceries at Rabba on Charles Street, the east side of Bay Street. A liquor store can be found in the Manulife Centre at Bay and Bloor.

Parking

The parking lot for weekly pass holders is under Rowell Jackman Hall at 85 Charles Street West. (Refer to Rowell Jackman Hall Residence **P** on map). There is also a limited amount day parking at Margaret Addison Hall. There is no free parking on campus. Display your Daily Parking Pass or Weekly Parking Permit in your car at all times.

Daily Parking Pass: A very limited number of day passes can be purchased at the Front Desk of Margaret Addison Hall.

6 am – 6 pm rate – C\$9. This rate permits in and out privileges.

24 hr. rate - C\$18. This rate permits in and out privileges.

Off-campus, but nearby parking: should the parking at Victoria University be sold out, there are several lots within a 5-10 minute walk of campus:

- in the Colonnade at 131 Bloor Street West
- in the Manulife Centre (entrance on Charles Street West between Yonge and Bay Streets)
- at 57 Charles Street West (underground)
- at St. Michael's College (on St Joseph Street, between Bay Street and Queen's Park Crescent). This will be the last year this lot will be open and will be the cheapest. \$9.50/day. No in and out privileges.
- next to Bistro 990 at 990 Bay Street (corner of Bay & St Joseph)

Weekly Parking Permit. If you are planning to drive to Toronto from out of town, Victoria College has made available a limited number of Weekly Parking Permits that can be ordered in advance. Weekly Parking Permits are C\$38 and permit in and out privileges. Unfortunately, weekly permits cannot be purchased through Classical Pursuits. You can arrange for a Weekly Parking Permit by calling the Summer Residence Front Desk (416-585-4524) and providing your vehicle license plate number. Passes can be picked up at Front Desk any time.

Sunday Excursion to Stratford

Those who have pre-booked the excursion to Stratford to see *The Tempest* will gather in front of Margaret Addison Hall at 8 am for an 8:15 am departure. You will have been sent an itinerary for the day. You will return immediately following the performance, arriving back on campus about 7 pm. Note that Burwash Hall dining room will be open for breakfast at 7 am. Those staying on campus at Rowell Jackman Hall have breakfast included. Others can buy a hot breakfast there for a flat fee of \$9.04.

Sunday Orientation Activities

We have planned a number of activities to help orient those new to Toronto Pursuits in the Summer (or those returnees interested in a refresher).

Sunday Art Walk

Betty Ann Jordan will lead a lively walking tour of the Toronto waterfront, focusing on its artistic aspects, including the Power Plant contemporary gallery, the Museum of Inuit Art, the open fine craft studios and contemporary art and architecture galleries at Harbourfront Centre, and some artists' gardens. (Bring about \$12 in Canadian currency for transit fare, admission and incidentals.)

As an alternative to the Inuit Museum, participants may also take a self-guided tour of the Harbourfront Centre (York Quay) to view the Centre's free, open-concept artisans' studios and exhibitions of contemporary art, photography and architecture/urbanism along with a mini-show of fine craft works. Also visit the Bounty fine-craft and design commercial boutique and gallery on the premises.

Group Size limited to 25 people. Rain or shine.

Transport TTC fare is \$3/adult one-way, \$2/one-way senior; or 5 tokens (\$12.50/adult or \$8.50/senior. To save time, get your transit tokens in advance at the Museum Subway station.

Admissions \$6/adult, \$5/senior for the Museum of Inuit Art

Walking Wear comfortable shoes

Meet in the ABB Moore Foyer of Victoria College ('Old Vic') at 1:15 pm. The walk will conclude at Old Vic at 4 pm (in time for the Shared Inquiry demo mentioned below).

Betty Ann Jordan, 416-979-5704;

bajordan@sympatico.ca; <http://www.artinsite.com>

Shared Inquiry Demo

Many of you will be new to our discussion method at Classical Pursuits. Seasoned Classical Pursuits and Great Books discussion leaders Nancy Carr and Nora Palmieri will be offering a complimentary interactive demonstration of Shared Inquiry <http://www.classicalpursuits.com/about/format.php> from 4:30 - 6 pm on Sunday, July 12th in the ABB Moore Foyer in Old Vic.

Optional dinner

Seminar leaders Nancy Carr and Nora Palmieri and Classical Pursuits founder Ann Kirkland will be available to go out for an informal dinner following the Shared Inquiry discussion. We will leave from Old Vic at 6:30 pm and walk to a nearby restaurant (cost not included in fee).

Welcome Reception

You are cordially invited to join us on Monday, July 12th from 5:30 - 7 pm at The Lobby, a nearby bar for an informal cocktail reception. We will depart on foot at 5:15 pm from ABB Moore Foyer.

Schedule

Please visit our detailed schedule of activities online at:

<http://newsletter.classicalpursuits.com/toronto-schedule> A detailed schedule of activities will be posted each day in Old Vic.

The heart of Classical Pursuits is the seminar each morning from 9:30 to noon. All other activities are planned for your enjoyment and most function on a drop in basis*. Do not overdo it. Feel free to sit on a bench and day dream; have an afternoon nap; wander off and explore Toronto.

*Exceptions are the Soulpepper Theatre performances and Kurt Weill dinner/cabaret for which pre-ordered tickets are necessary and Fr. Dan Donovan's art collection tours, which function on a lottery basis.

First Floor, Victoria College ('Old Vic') - the hub of activities

Use the ABB Moore Foyer as a meeting place, a place to relax, read or even take a catnap. From Monday through Friday the Foyer opens at 8:15 am and closes at 6 pm unless there is an evening activity scheduled.

- Coffee, tea and the daily newspapers are available in the Foyer on weekday mornings.
- Weekday buffet lunches are served in the adjacent Alumni Hall immediately following the morning seminars (included in the fee).
- The Foyer is also the departure point for most of our afternoon and evening activities - when in doubt, go to the Foyer.
- Please note: weekdays from 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Alumni Hall will be used exclusively for Iain Scott's talks on Opera and the Trojan War. Classical Pursuits participants may attend any or all of these sessions free of charge.

Opportunities to socialize over a meal

In addition to the lunches for all Classical Pursuits participants, as mentioned above, there are opportunities for everyone to join in other meals. Each evening during the week, one or more seminar leader(s) invite participants to join them for dinner at one of Toronto's great local eateries. We will

depart from the ABB Moore Foyer at 6 pm. In addition, a hot breakfast is available in the Burwash Hall Dining Room for C \$9.04 (including tax). (Breakfast is included for those staying in Rowell Jackman Hall.)

Opera and Ensemble Singing with Iain Scott

We are delighted to welcome back Iain Scott, one of Canada's most beloved Opera aficionados, for another of his always-popular series of discussions of opera. This year his theme is Ensemble Singing. Opera Seria in the 18th century focussed on the solo aria. But Opera Buffa -- and all of 19th century opera -- focuses on the interaction between characters. Duets are usually soaring expressions of passion between lovers, confrontations between rivals, or inter-generational conflicts. Trios imply a triangular relationship -- ideal for expressions of sexual jealousy. Quartets are usually for two couples -- often expressing the power of miscommunication. Quintets, sextets, septets, etc often are composed for the dramatic finales of acts. Iain's illustrated talks will run Monday through Friday from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in Alumni Hall in Old Vic. All Classical Pursuits participants are welcome to attend any or all of these sessions. <http://www.opera-is.com/>

Physical Activity

Toronto is a great city to discover on foot and the University of Toronto campus is a wonderful place to take a jog. You can also purchase day passes for the University of Toronto's athletic facilities, so consider bringing your running shoes, bathing suit, exercise gear, and tennis racket. (Details about the Athletic Centre will be available in the ABB Moore Foyer.)

Dress

Dress is casual throughout the week. Shorts and t-shirts are perfectly acceptable. All the rooms we will be using are air-conditioned, so a sweater or a light jacket is a good idea. You may wish to spiff up just a little if you are going to the theatre.

Canadian currency

If you are coming from the US, you may find it convenient to arrive with a small amount of Canadian currency for incidentals. Once here, ATMs will issue you Canadian funds using your American debit card or credit card. There are ATMs at nearby banks (at the corner of Bay and Bloor Streets). It is a good idea to notify your bank and credit card providers that you will be using your cards in Toronto.

Contact numbers

You may want to leave the following numbers with a family member or friend - **for emergency contact only.**

416-585-4524. Summer Residence Front Desk is staffed 24/7. Front Desk personnel can answer questions about the university as a whole, including specific questions about reaching Classical Pursuits participants staying in Rowell Jackman Hall.

647-802-1367. Classical Pursuits cell phone number. This number will be staffed from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and messages may be left. Please use this number only if you have questions about the Classical Pursuits program, such as where and when a particular event will take place.

Getting the Most Out of Literature

(for Cleanth Brooks)

By John Agresto

We groaned and we grimaced and we made all the ugly noises a class of high school sophomore boys could make without being sent to the principal. We did not want to read any book about some woman, a preacher, and an out-of-wedlock baby in ye olde New England. It was probably a stupid book. It was surely an embarrassing book. We knew we would hate it.

We loved it. Hester had the kind of character we all admired—courageous, fiercely private, loyal. Roger Chillingworth was vicious, despicable. Even though the prose was old-fashioned, every word made sense; every piece fit together. And everyday we fought in class over what we would do were we Hester or Dimmesdale or Pearl.

Then, one day, we got a special treat: a guest lecturer. One of the other teachers had taken a course, a college course, just on Hawthorne. He knew everything there was to know about *The Scarlet Letter*. He told us about the various influences on Hawthorne's prose style, the man's life and times, incidents in his career that led him to write as he did, etc., etc. Our papers were to be on "The Roots of Transcendentalism," or "The Influence of Emerson," or "Hawthorne, Man of His Times," or topics of like academic weightiness. By the time he had finished, the book was effectively dead.

I want to propose a little academic heresy in the name of common sense. Contrary to all high-blown "academic" teachings, a work of literature is great not because it has relationships to other texts that need to be explored, not because it has a long pedigree of precursors influencing its writing, not because it reveals to us even so much about its time and place, and not because its author is a fit study for numberless biographical or psychological musings. Great literature is great because it talks about great things. And our first task as teachers is not to hide this truth, not to reduce it, not to minimize it. Our first task is to let the books we teach speak openly to our students. In some quarters, this view rubs against the grain of high scholarship. Surely it flies in the face of views that hold that all literature is merely a covert vehicle of class bias, or that there is nothing objective in texts, or that a text is whatever we make it to be, or that no one interpretation can be superior to any other. Luckily, these ideas are believed only in select universities and have not yet had much of an impact on schools.

But my suggestion also means rejecting as educationally unimportant some of the rules of interpretation many of us learned when we were younger. For example, putting an author "in his time and place" may not be the most instructive thing we can do. In fact, I offer that it is positively deadly. Authors, both great and second-rate, probably can tell us more about their "historical context" than surmises about historical influences can tell us about an author. Besides, of what value is it to reduce Hawthorne, or Shakespeare, or Donne, or Dickinson to his or her time and place? When we bind the words to their particular setting, do they mean more to us today? Are they more instructive? Generally, no.

Historical, social, or economic reductions—using history, society, or social status as an explanatory vehicle for a text—distances that text for our students. It makes it other, a curio, a museum piece. My hunch is that only second-class books are truly captives of their time; great works are more universal; they speak to us effectively as timeless. First-class works would mean no less if their authors were known only as "anonymous" and their date listed as "unknown."

There is, in other words, a sure point at which much that passes for scholarship is a kind of smug pedantry that simply kills literature. Our students, of course, know that.

As students we knew that *The Scarlet Letter* wasn't written for us to guess at who influenced the author. We knew it wasn't about the historical context or the climate of opinion of the times

when Hawthorne wrote. It was about devotion and hypocrisy and fear of being found out. It was about evil and sin and loyalty. It was about community needs, community standards, and the demands of conscience. It was about the different and conflicting parts of the human soul.

Hawthorne raised these issues of character and morals not in the context of a treatise or essay but in a novel, a particular work of art. In it all the devices of literature come into play: What is the connotation of the rosebush outside the prison door? Why the contrast between the city and the forest? Why is the child named "Pearl"? Any question that helps us see more clearly what the story or poem or play is attempting to say to us is legitimate inquiry. Anything that pigeonholes, caricatures, reduces, or diminishes the text is not. Even as students we sensed deep down that Hawthorne didn't write to be analyzed—he had something to say and he wrote to be understood.

I am reminded of an incident that took place a few years ago at the National Endowment for the Humanities. We were trying to set up a summer school program for teachers. We hoped to reintroduce teachers to those seminal books they read, or wished they had read, when they were in school—Homer, Shakespeare, Tolstoy, de Tocqueville. Each seminar would be led by a noted college professor. The classes would center on reading one major work thoroughly. They would not be concerned with secondary sources, the latest scholarly articles on the topic, or anything that would detract from an open and careful reading of the primary text.

During the orientation session for the professors, it was clear that one was uncomfortable with the format. No, we told him, he could not assign his various articles interpreting the text for class. No, we did not think it necessary to spend much time on the historical context of the work. No, we did not want the teachers to do extensive research into the scholarly literature written about the text. In desperation he threw up his hands and said, "But after they read the book, what will they do with it?" He simply had no idea that, with the greatest books, we don't do anything to them; they do something to us.

Along these lines, let me suggest something frightening and liberating: Do not be afraid of naïve questions. Why does Othello kill Desdemona? Why is Iago so hateful a creature? Why does Jim trust Huck? Why does Huck never betray Jim? Why is Lear so foolish? Why does Cordelia have to die? These are the questions that live embedded in our books, embedded in ways that move both the heart and the mind. These are the reasons the author wrote. No matter what else we do, we should do the author the honor of asking what it is he or she was trying to say. If I could sum it up in one short rule, it would be this: We should all try to learn from books, not just about books.

This is a plea for taking literature seriously. It assumes that authors have something to say; even, perhaps, something to teach. It also begins with the view that great literature is always new, always contemporary, always relevant—that it can transform our view of ourselves and the world. But it can only do this if we approach our books fresh—as if they were written today, and for us. We must ask, as naively as we can, "Why does our author say this?" And then we should listen for reasons, not search for impersonal causes in the Zeitgeist or the subconscious or the irrational. Yes, Wordsworth is a great poet. But he's great because he has something to say, and in a manner worthy of our attention—not because he's a good example of Romanticism.

If we begin with the sense that each book, poem, or play we teach contains something relevant and worth our learning, then each encounter is the chance to grapple with the soul of a great author. Learning all "about" an author can make us feel academic, smug, and ever-so-smart. Learning all we can from our authors will help us see again that Hester Prynne can still talk to sophomores.

John Agresto is president-emeritus of St. John's College, Santa Fe; Senior Research Scholar in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College; and head of an educational consulting company in the liberal arts for colleges and schools. He previously served as Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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TORONTO: PLACES TO GO & THINGS TO DO

So much to do and see! Plan an extra day or two to see more at leisure

Public transit information: 416-393-4636 (INFO) or www.ttc.ca

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) Tues-Sun 10am-5:30pm Adults \$18, Snr. \$15 FREE Wed. 6-8:30 pm
317 Dundas Street West (W. of University, St. Patrick subway) 416-979 6648 www.ago.net

New architectural design by Frank Gehry. Over 68,000 works, from 100 AD to present. A dazzling building and collection; wonderful gift store.

Mini Tours (25 mins) 11:30am & 2:30, Wed. 7 pm; Highlight tours (60 mins) 1 pm; Grange Tours - every ½ hr.
For Current Exhibits - www.ago.net/exhibits

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Mon-Sun 10am-5:30pm Adults \$22, Snr. \$19 HALF PRICE Fri. 4:30-9:30
100 Queen's Park (at Bloor, Museum subway) 416-586-8000 www.rom.on.ca

A leading museum of natural history and world cultures, Exciting new design; engaging permanent galleries, international traveling exhibitions, special programs and educational activities. Wonderful gift store.

For Current Exhibits - see *What's On Calendar* on website

Gardiner Museum Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm; Sat/Sun 10am-5pm Adults \$12, Snr. \$8
Guided Tours 2pm Tues/Thurs/Sun. FREE

111 Queen's Park (at Bloor, Museum subway) 416-586-8080 www.gardinermuseum.on.ca

A wonderful collection of ceramics spanning continents and time. Shows the development of process, decoration and form. A fine example of modernist architecture. Houses Toronto's Best Gift Shop" (Vogue), and celebrity chef Jamie Kennedy's restaurant.

July Exhibit - HOT COMMODITY: Chinese Blue and White Porcelain and Its Impact on the World

The Bata Shoe Museum Mon-Sat. 10am-5pm; Thurs. to 8pm; Sun. 12-5pm Adults \$12, Snr. \$10
327 Bloor St. W (at St. George subway) 416-979-7799 www.batashoemuseum.ca

Hundreds of shoes on exhibit in architect Raymond Moriyama's award-winning four-storey structure, ranging from Chinese bound foot shoes and ancient Egyptian sandals to chestnut-crushing clogs, glamorous platforms and 20th-century celebrity shoes.

Textile Museum of Canada Daily 11am-5pm, Wed to 8pm Adult \$12, Snr. \$8
55 Centre Ave. (Dundas St. W & University Ave. St. Patrick Subway) 416-599-5321 www.textilemuseum.ca

Exhibits more than 12,000 works from 200 countries and regions, celebrating cultural diversity - includes traditional fabrics, garments, carpets, and related artifacts such as beadwork and basketry.

Museum of Inuit Art Daily 10am-6pm Thurs-Sat to 8 pm. Adults \$6 Snr. \$5
207 Queen's Quay W (at Harbourfront) 416-640-1571 www.miamuseum.ca

Canada's only public museum south of the Arctic devoted exclusively to Inuit art and culture. Over 300 works, including sculpture in stone, antler, ivory and bone, innovative prints, drawings, ceramics and textile art.

Discover ancient Thule ivories, contemporary masterpieces, and more.

Eskimo Art Gallery Mon-Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat to 6 pm; Sun 11am-5pm
12 Queen's Quay W. (at foot of Bay) 416-366-3000 www.eskimoart.com

Since 1981 has presented the finest contemporary Inuit art from the Canadian North. In addition to the museum-quality masterpieces, offer the best works by the most talented Inuit artists of the younger generation as well as consulting and appraisals.

The Market Gallery Wed- Fri. 10am-4 pm; Sat. 9am - 4pm. FREE
95 Front St. E., 2nd Floor (E. of Union subway) 416-392-7604 www.stlawrencemarket.com/gallery/index.html

In historic South St. Lawrence Market, this 19th century city council chamber features changing exhibitions showing Toronto's cultural, physical, and social development through paintings, photographs, fine art, maps, documents and other items,

Hollander York Gallery Mon-Sat. 10am-6pm
110 Yorkville Avenue, 416-923-9275 www.hollanderyorkgallery.com

An outstanding selection of paintings and sculptures representing top Canadian artists both contemporary and traditional.

Design Exchange Mon-Fri. 10am-5pm; Sat/Sun. 12-5pm Adults \$10, Snr. \$8
234 Bay St (TD Centre at King)., 416-363-6121 www.dx.org

Canada's national design museum in the original historic Toronto Stock Exchange building. Features a permanent collection of post-modern Canadian industrial design along with exhibits across all design disciplines.

Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art Tues - Sun 11-6pm
952 Queen St. W., (at Shaw) 416-395-0067 www.mocca.toronto.ca

In the exciting West Queen West Art and Design District with many contemporary galleries, stores and restaurants, MOCCA exhibits, researches, collects, and promotes innovative art by Canadian artists who reflect stories of our times. Provides a forum for emerging artists.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

LCBO Store at Summerhill Mon-Sat. 10am - 10pm, Sun. 11am-6pm.
10 Scrivener Square, 416-922-0403 www.lcbo.com

In the historic North Toronto station, fully restored to its former glory, this 30,000 sq.ft. landmark includes a 145-foot Venetian clock tower, marble walls and brass ticket wickets. Features more than 5,000 wines, spirits, beers and gift ideas, as well as a vintages area, tasting stations and demonstration kitchen.

Casa Loma Daily 9:30am-5pm Adults \$18, Snr. \$12.50
1 Austin Terrace, 416-923-1171 (cor, Davenport & Spadina Ave.) www.casaloma.org

Former estate of Canadian financier, Sir Henry Pellatt. An Edwardian Castle complete with decorated suites, towers, 800-foot tunnel, stables and gardens. Cafe, gift shop. Often used for media and film shoots.

Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens Tues- Sun. Noon-5pm (closed to Fall 2010)
285 Spadina Road (next door to Casa Loma) 416-392-6910 www.toronto.ca/culture/museums/spadina.htm

One of Toronto's finest mansions and restored Victorian and Edwardian gardens.

Mackenzie House Tues - Sun noon-5pm Adults \$6, Snr. \$3
82 Bond Street (two blocks east of Eaton Centre, south of Dundas) 416-392-6915
www.toronto.ca/culture/museums/mackenzie.htm

1858 Greek revival row-house. Home of Toronto's famous rebel and first mayor, William Lyon Mackenzie.

Campbell House Tues-Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm; Sat, Sun noon-4:30pm Adults \$6, Snr. \$4
160 Queen St. W. (at University; Osgoode subway) www.campbellhousemuseum.ca

The last remaining brick home from the original town of York. Built in 1822 for Sir William Campbell, Upper Canada's 6th Chief Justice. Makes history come alive.

MARKETS & GARDENS

St. Lawrence Market Complex Tues-Thurs 8am-6pm; Fri 8am-7pm; Sat. 5am-5pm
92 Front St. E. at Jarvis (E of Union Station) 416-392-7120 www.stlawrencemarket.com

Three historic buildings - the lively south market building features restaurants, artisans and specialty food vendors, the north market building has had a farmers' market every Saturday for more than 200 years, the St. Lawrence Hall contains a magnificent Great Hall for social and business functions.

2-Hour historic walking tour - Wed-Sat 10am. To reserve call 647-393-8687 \$25

Kensington Market www.kensington-market.ca

Bordered by Spadina, Dundas, Bathurst & College St.

A maze of narrow streets and alleys with Victorian houses. During the 1920s, predominantly Jewish. Today a rich multicultural mix giving a sensory trip around the world. As lively as street markets with piles of fruit and vegetables, exotic spices and sweet treats. Good prices, a wide variety of eclectic restaurants and cafés, and unusual shops, including some of Toronto's best vintage clothing stores.

The Distillery District www.thedistillerydistrict.com

From Castle Frank subway, Bus 65A Parliament to Front St. Walk one block south to Mill St.

Village of brick-lined streets and dozens of vibrantly restored Victorian Industrial buildings. Hot tourist attraction and home to live theatres, galleries, fashion, design and jewelry boutiques, unique cafes and award-winning restaurants. Completely closed to traffic.

Toronto Music Garden www.toronto.ca/parks/music_index.htm

475 Queen's Quay W. (On the waterfront between Bathurst & Spadina)

Event info: Harbourfront Centre Info Line 416-973-4000

A gorgeous garden reflecting Bach's *First Suite for Unaccompanied Cello* in landscape. Designed by internationally renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma and landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy, in collaboration with landscape architects from the City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation. Each dance movement within the suite corresponds to a different section in the garden.

Annual Summer Music in the Garden series FREE

For Schedule see www.harbourfrontcentre.com/torontomusicgarden/index.cfm

Allen Gardens Conservatory 10 am - 5 pm www.toronto.ca/parks/parks_gardens/allangdns.htm

19 Horticultural Ave (S side of Carlton, betw. Jarvis & Sherbourne)

Six indoor greenhouses comprising over 16,000 square feet of colourful seasonal plants which supplement the permanent plant collection. Of botanical importance since 1858.

MUSIC www.thewholenote.com

Comprehensive guide covering Toronto and the surrounding area. Now in its 14th season, WholeNote is dedicated to the promotion of live music, including Classical, Jazz, World, Music Theatre, and Contemporary.

FILM

National Film Board of Canada, Mediatheque Daily 7 days a week for non-stop viewing
150 John St. (at Richmond) 416-973-3012 www.nfb.ca/mediatheque

The ultimate window into Canadian culture. Watch 5,000 NFB films (mainly documentaries & animation) on state-of-the-art personal viewing stations, buy or rent videos and DVD's, attend film screenings

Cinematheque Ontario www.cinemathequeontario.ca

Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas Street West
(SW cor. Dundas St W & McCaul - 2 blocks W of St. Patrick subway)

A division of the Toronto International Film Festival. Year-round screenings presenting the history of world cinema on the big screen in carefully curated retrospectives

July 10-17 Schedule - Features Kurosawa & Pasolini (see website)

SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS

Toronto Fringe Festival June 30 - July 11 www.fringetoronto.com

Theatre festival with unique productions in more than 25 venues

Toronto Outdoor Art Festival July 9-11 www.torontooutdoorart.org

49th Yr. - juried showcase of fine arts & crafts (approx. 500 artists) - Nathan Phillips Square (City Hall)

Beaches International Jazz Festival July 16-25 www.beachesjazz.com

22nd Annual - Woodbine Park (Lake Shore and Coxwell)

Harbourfront Centre www.harbourfrontcentre.com

Multicultural programs in arts, culture, education & recreation, in the heart of Toronto's downtown waterfront

Fri, Sat & Sun July 9 - 11 *Pop, Lock & Load break dance competition*

Fri, Sat & Sun July 16-18 *Brazilian music, film, dance & food*

Just for Laughs Festival Toronto July 6-11 www.hahaha.com

TOURS

ROM Walks www.rom.on.ca/programs/rom_travel/index.php 416-586-8097 FREE

Guided walking tours through Toronto neighbourhoods of architectural and historic interest. No registration required. Take place rain or shine. (Approx. 90 mins. to 2 hrs.)

Heritage Toronto Walks www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/walk FREE

Covering all areas of the city, Heritage Toronto Walks tell the stories behind the people, landscapes and historic buildings that bring Toronto's neighbourhoods to life.

Schedule online

Canadian OPERA Company www.coc.ca

Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W.

Some Saturdays at 12 noon - Hour-long tour of this magnificent new opera house with guided information on the acoustics and architecture. \$7, Seniors \$5 - check schedule

www.coc.ca/ExploreAndLearn/Adults/BuildingTours/FourSeasonsCentre.aspx

Luxury Bus & Guided Walking Tour www.torontotours.com 416-868-0400

Luxury air-conditioned bus, fully narrated with guided walking tours of popular Toronto attractions. Pick up (10am) and drop off at hotel. Cost \$39.95, \$34.95 for seniors (book online to save 25%)

Separate harbour & island cruise available at dock - 145 Queens Quay W. at foot of York.

No reservations needed. Cost \$26, \$24.95 for seniors

OR

Double-Decker Sightseeing and Boat Tour www.busandboat.ca 416-410-0536.

Explore Toronto atop a breezy bus with informative commentary. Hop on and off at any stop for 7 days. End with a free 45 min. cruise and narrated tour of Toronto's harbour and islands. Starts at their Info. Centre (249 Queens Quay W. east side of Radisson Hotel). Leaves every 40 mins. from 9am-4.20 pm. Cost \$31.71, \$30.95 for seniors (reduced for online booking)

AROUND TORONTO

McMichael Canadian Art Collection Open daily 10 am to 4 pm Adults \$15; Snr. \$12
10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg, Ontario
905.893.1121 or toll free 1.888.213.1121 www.mcmichael.com

In a beautiful surrounding area, a perfect introduction to Canada's art, its peoples, cultures and history with a permanent collection of almost 6,000 artworks by the Group of Seven, their contemporaries, First Nations, Inuit and others who have contributed to Canada's artistic heritage.

For Driving Directions and Public Transport - see website

Stratford Shakespeare Festival www.stratfordfestival.ca 1-800-567-1600
Stratford, Ontario

An annual celebration of theatre from April to November. Theatre-goers, actors, and playwrights flock to take part. The primary mandate is to present Shakespeare's plays. Also produces a wide variety of theatre from Greek tragedy to contemporary works. The festival's success dramatically changed the image of Stratford into a city where the arts and tourism play important roles.

Getting there by car, coach or public transit www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com/transportation

Shaw Festival www.shawfest.com 1-800-511-7429
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Started in 1962 to produce the dramatic works of Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries. Has gained a reputation for provocative and subtle ensemble acting, innovative theatrical designs, and pieces by largely forgotten women writers from Shaw's period. Four theatres.

Driving directions online

Public transit - Greyhound Bus (Bay & Dundas) to Niagara Falls or St. Catharines. Then taxi to Niagara-on-the-Lake www.greyhound.com 1-800-231-2222

Niagara Falls

A natural phenomenon second in size only to Victoria Falls in Africa - 4-6 million cubic feet of water go over its crest every minute; 188 feet high, with the deepest section of the Niagara River at their base.

Niagara Tours Day (9am-7pm) Express (9am-4pm) - Luxury bus, pick up & drop off at hotel. Includes: Maid of the Mist, buffet lunch overlooking Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Helicopter Tour (additional charge), winery stop and tasting. \$145.95, Seniors \$135.95 - 25% discount for online booking. Express \$93.95

www.torontotours.com/index.php/tours-tickets/niagara 416-868-0400

OR

Niagara Falls Scenic Tour (\$49.99 - online booking) & **Evening Tour** (\$69.99 - online booking)

Free pick up and delivery at hotel (9am) in air-conditioned bus or limousine, wine tasting at Niagara winery, scenic drive, Maid of the Mist extra. Evening tour (6pm-midnight). Enjoy spectacular night lights at the Falls. Lots of time for dinner on your own.

www.pioneertours.ca 1-866-779-9947 or 905-205-0050

OR

Public transit - Greyhound Bus (Bay & Dundas) www.greyhound.com 1-800-231-2222

Niagara Wineries www.tourismniagara.com/wine_country.html

Over 70 of the world's finest, award-winning wineries within 30 minutes driving time of each other and only one hour from Toronto. Experience the very best of the vintners' craft in beautiful country.

www.niagaraworldwinetours.com 1-800-680-7006

Prince Edward County Wineries www.thecountywines.com

The wine industry has taken off in an unspoiled rural landscape 2-hours from Toronto and the food scene is developing rapidly with some of the finest chefs www.tastetrail.ca

www.pecwinetours.com 1-866-900-3703