

W I N T E R 2 0 1 6

Bootmaker News and Events

Be there!

Award-winning author Rosemary Aubert at Annual Awards Dinner

This year The Bootmakers of Toronto will be hosting **Rosemary Aubert**, author of the **Ellis Portal** mystery series, which have the distinction of being set in Toronto! Ms. Aubert will be discussing how Sherlock Holmes influenced her development of one of the main characters in the series.

Save the Date: January 30, 2016

Time

6:00 p.m. Drinks

7:00 Dinner

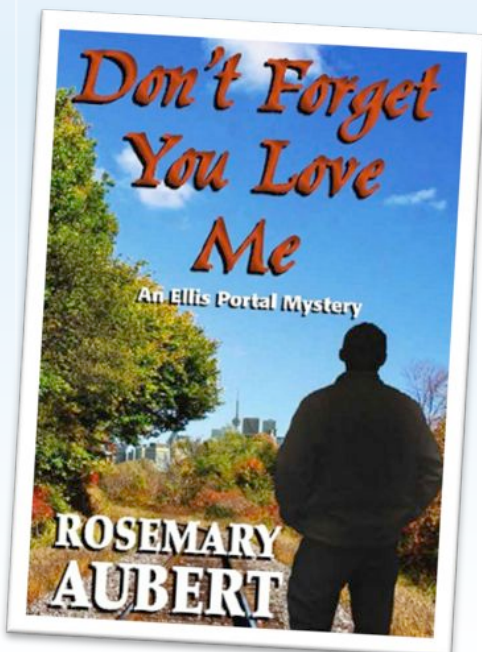
Place

York Masonic
Temple

1100 Millwood Rd

Cost

\$65 per person





Fellow Bootmakers,

First of all, please accept my thanks for your vote of confidence in electing me to serve as Meyers during the year of 2016! It is a great honour to serve as the president of this august body of Sherlockian enthusiasts. I will be counting on all of you to help make 2016 a memorable year for our members here and abroad.

Yes, it is indeed an honour to be elected to lead our efforts in keeping interest in the “Canon” alive. That is an important charge, especially when we consider that the stories of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson have been printed more than any other work except the Bible. Every Bootmaker—and I mean every single Bootmaker—contributes to keeping these works in the forefront of literature. We would live in a much poorer world without the likes of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to inspire and encourage us.



This past year has been a banner year for the Bootmakers with Thelma Beam at the helm! We have added many new members while offering a series of excellent programs during our regular meetings. *Canadian Holmes*, under the most able direction of Mark Alberstat, continues to gather accolades in the world of

Sherlockian scholarship. This past year I was privileged to be the Bootmakers’ representative at a gathering that featured Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Elizabeth Dowdeswell. I had a very pleasant conversation with her about Sherlock Holmes and his “service to the Empire.” In October we were able to get discounted tickets for the “Sherlock” play starring David Arquette, and a number of us were able to meet the cast at a special presentation in the Beeton Auditorium.



There will be some immediate changes for us in 2016, as the Toronto Reference Library has decided to charge regular rental fees for use of the Beeton Auditorium on Saturdays. Our treasury would soon empty if we had to start paying sizable fees for our meeting space—that, or we would have to increase the cost of our meetings considerably. So, we have had to look for another home.

We settled on the North York Central Library auditorium on the second floor. It is a very nice auditorium, with plenty of room to accommodate all of our members, and it comes with a projector screen, a projector and a sound system. We were looking at the Northern District Library across from the Duke of Kent Pub near Yonge and Eglinton, but their auditorium lacked a sound system. While the acoustics were good, we were thinking about our members who can no longer hear like they once could (that includes yours truly), and about those of us who have voices lesser in

volume than a foghorn (that also includes yours truly). Studies have shown that a person can raise his or her voice for only so long until the vocal chords are strained. In any event, the North York Central Library should work well for us. The entrance to the subway is in the same building complex, and a number of our members reside in that area. An elevator is present to take those who don't navigate the stairs so much anyway (yes, that includes yours truly also).

And speaking of venues, our annual Blue Carbuncle Dinner will be held at the York Masonic Temple on January 30th. We chose this venue because we got a really good deal on the meals, and there is no charge for renting a dining hall. There is plenty of free parking—and if you want to take the TTC, just go to Donlands Station and take Bus 56, which will deposit you right in front of the Temple. We wanted to keep the ticket prices down and to have a venue that was easily accessible, and the Temple seemed to fill the bill on all counts. Not to mention that Sir Arthur was also a Mason.

Our guest speaker for the Blue Carbuncle Dinner will be Rosemary Aubert, the author of the acclaimed “Ellis Portal” mysteries. Rosemary will talk to us about how Sherlock Holmes influenced the creation of her Judge Portal character, who had fallen from grace—even into homelessness—and who clawed his way back to the top, solving many mysteries along the way. She also teaches novel writing at the University of Toronto and promises to be a most entertaining speaker.

Kathy Burns, by the way, found a menu for the first Blue Carbuncle Dinner that was held in 1974. We are going to try to “reprise” the menu descriptions. You MUST come to the dinner to

see what are the “Devil's Own Pet Baits”.

As you all know, we had a tiny glitch when electing a new slate of officers for the Bootmaker Executive. One of our members graciously stepped down until we could get everything sorted out—we have done that and we will welcome that most gracious member back into the Executive during the Blue Carbuncle Dinner. That is, of course, another reason you MUST come to the Blue Carbuncle Dinner. All returning board members have my profound thanks for continuing to serve and for their promise to help guide the Bootmakers through the New Year.

On the subject of the Executive, please welcome Ms. Angela Misri to the board! Angela was the guest speaker at our last Blue Carbuncle dinner, and is the author of two best-selling Sherlockian pastiches, *The Jewel of the Thames* and *Thrice Burned*. This year, Angela is the power behind the Bootmakers' Facebook page, and our official “Twittering,” as well. We are hoping we won't keep Angela *too* busy, as we are anxiously awaiting her third book in this series.

Speaking of social media, we will be sending out a new password on January 1st for the Bootmaker website “Members” page. This is the page where you read the current issue of *Canadian Holmes*. This password will only be sent to members in good standing so I hope you have all sent in your renewals. Watch your emails for it.

That's about it for now. Thanks—and let's all have a great Bootmaker year!

James Reese

Meyers 2016

The 2016 Executive

These are the dedicated men and women who work hard to make sure that The Bootmakers of Toronto runs smoothly.

Meyers – James Reese

Meyers 2017 – Michael Ranieri

Past Meyers – Thelma Beam

Treasurer – Philip Elliott

Editor of Canadian Holmes – Mark Alberstat

Toronto Reference Library Liaison – Peggy Perdue

Membership Secretary – Elizabeth Carbone

Archivist and Secretary – Kathy Burns

Social Media Outreach – Angela Misri

Awards Coordinator – Dave Sanders

Lassus – Karen Gold

Director-at-Large – Christopher Redmond

Director-at-Large – Peter Calamai

Director-at-Large – Edith Reese

You can reach the Bootmaker Executive by sending an email to meyerstoronto@yahoo.ca.

We are always searching for volunteers to help out at the meetings, to spread the word on social media, or to serve on committees. If you would like to become more involved, please contact Meyers at meyerstoronto@yahoo.ca

And a special thanks to these awesome volunteers.

The Greeter – Marilyn Penner

The Stamper – Dayna Nuhn

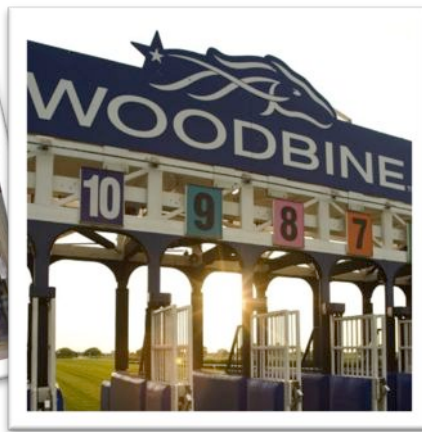
The Quizmistress – Karen Campbell

The Honorary Counsel – Cliff Goldfarb

The Webmaster – Larry Beam

Colonel Ross – Donny Zaldin

Co-Editor of Canadian Holmes – JoAnn Alberstat



Be there! 2016 Bootmaker Schedule

- **Saturday, January 30th** – Annual Awards Dinner, York Masonic Temple, 1100 Millwood Rd., East York
- **Sunday January 31st** – Marlene Aig Brunch
- **February 27th** - IDEN story meeting, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, North York
- **April 2nd** – BOSC story meeting, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, North York
- **May 21st** – FIVE story meeting – Brunch TBD
- **June 11th** – Pub Night
- **July 16th** – Silver Blaze Can-Am Event – Woodbine Race Track
- **September 10th** – TWIS story meeting , North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, North York
- **October 29th** – SPEC story meeting – York Masonic Temple, 1100 Millwood Rd., East York
- **December 3rd** – AGM and ENGR story meeting, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, North York



The Bootmakers on Social Media

Join our group on Facebook: **The Bootmakers of Toronto**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bootmakers/>

Follow us on Twitter: **@BootmakersofTO** and **@CanadianHolmes**

