
MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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A week of events celebrating Arthur Conan Doyle and his best known character, Sherlock Holmes, is unfolding from May 23 to 27 at Kingston Frontenac Public Library.

“Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes mysteries influenced the creation of so much of the detective genre and inspired many spinoffs in film and literature. He was a fantastic writer, and Holmes is a legendary character,” says lead programmer Deanna MacDonald. “He illustrates beautifully the late-Victorian interest in science, experimentation, and rationality.”

Forensic investigation was in its infancy in Doyle’s time. Fingerprinting and ballistics were in the early stages of development but would become standard tools of criminal investigation. Just how far this field has advanced will be made clear when Detective Julia Moore of the Kingston Police Force Forensic Unit speaks on “Forensics Today” at the Isabel Turner Branch on May 23, at 7 p.m. Arrive early and view the exhibit of medical instruments on loan from the Museum of Health Care, on display near the Children’s collection all week long. Or come to The Alibi to test your wits in a round or two of Sherlock-themed trivia.

On Wednesday, the library screens *Murder by Decree* at the Calvin Park Branch, and on Thursday, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* will be showing at Isabel Turner Branch. Then, go online and vote for your favourite dramatic depiction of Sherlock Holmes. On the ballot will be Christopher Plummer, Basil Rathbone, Peter Cushing, Benedict Cumberbatch, and some you may never have heard of; we have their films for you to borrow and enjoy. Check out the library website for links to these.

Thursday and Friday evening (May 25-26), and Saturday afternoon, (May 27), you can Escape the Pump House, with Improbable Escapes. They’ll be waiting for you in the pump room. Sign up online at <https://www.improbableescapes.com/book-now-escape-room-game> as of May 15.

The week closes with a mini-conference at beautiful Memorial Hall in City Hall. Sherlock enthusiast and author Chris Redmond will briefly tell the story of how Sherlock Holmes, created by an impecunious British doctor in the 1880s, has become the best-known character in all of literature and popular culture. Other guests include Museum of Health Care curator Maxime Chouinard and author Ying Lee, who will talk about her Sherlock-inspired book series. Members of the KFPL Friends of the Library will be there to offer “selfies with Sherlock,” and the Kingston Historic Costume Society will be there in beautiful, period-appropriate attire.

A full schedule of events is available on our website at www.kfpl.ca.

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