



MOTIVE

CRIME & MYSTERY
FESTIVAL



JUNE 5-7, 2026

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

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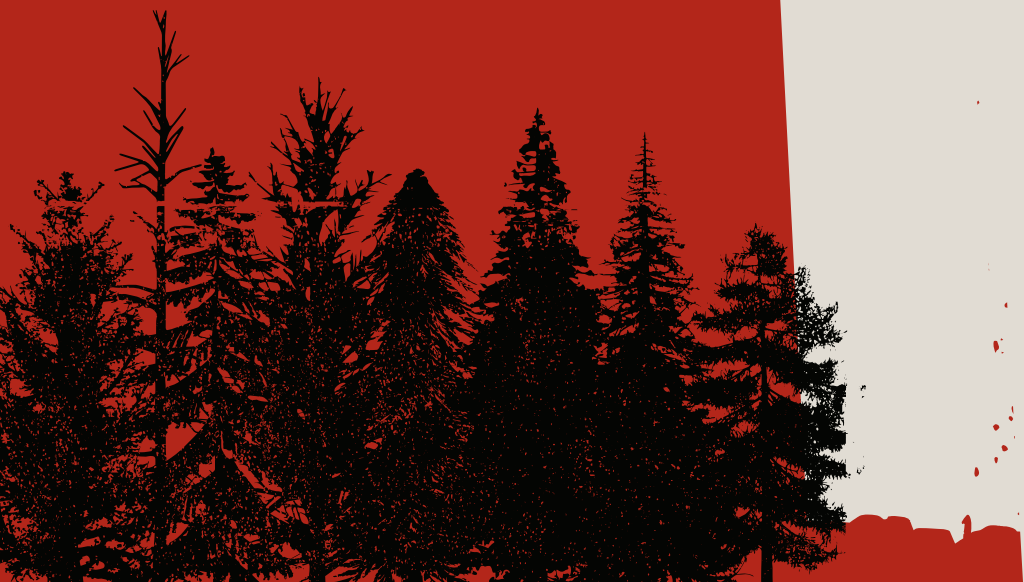


VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the land we are gathering on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and as we gather to celebrate the power of stories, we recognize that stories and ideas have been shared on this land by diverse First Nations for thousands of years.



WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for the fifth edition of the *MOTIVE Crime & Mystery Festival*. In this milestone year, we've gathered more than 40 acclaimed authors from Canada and around the world (including writers from France, South Korea, Iceland, and the UK) to celebrate our favourite page-turning genre. We hope you'll uncover new favourites, explore multiple events, hone your own killer writing skills, and make lasting connections with fellow armchair investigators. The game is afoot: enjoy!



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FESTIVAL

HIGHLIGHTS



CANADA BLEEDS: STEVEN BEATTIE, MARGARET CANNON, & SHARI LAPENA

Friday, June 5
3:30 PM | Alumni Hall

Generously supported by
The Mary Jane and
Paul Torrie Foundation.

Join **Steven Beattie**,
Margaret Cannon, and
Shari Lapena for a
wide-ranging conversation
on the evolution of
Canadian crime fiction.
From classic mysteries to
psychological thrillers,



they explore the genre's
growth, shifting reader
expectations, and the rise
of women writers, offering
insight into how Canadian
crime storytelling has
transformed—and where
it's headed.

TEA, CAKE, AND MURDER: CATHERINE MACK & LEV A.C. ROSEN

Saturday, June 6
11:00 AM | Alumni Hall

Generously supported by
The Ouellette
Family Foundation.

Join **Catherine Mack** and
Lev A.C. Rosen for a lively
conversation packed with
suspense and dark
humour. Mack's *This
Weekend Doesn't End Well
for Anyone* and Rosen's *The
Disaster Gay Detective
Agency* deliver zany
murder mysteries, chaotic
sleuths, deadly secrets,



and messy lives — all
enjoyed with tea, coffee,
and cake.

TWISTS & TRUTHS: CLARE MACKINTOSH & NITA PROSE

Friday, June 5 | 7:30PM | Isabel Bader Theatre

Generously supported by The Marilyn and
Charles Baillie Family Foundation.



Join bestselling authors
Clare Mackintosh and
Nita Prose for a lively chat
about crafting suspense,
unforgettable characters,
and twists that keep
readers guessing.
From Mackintosh's new
thriller *It's Not What You
Think* — where nothing is
as simple as it seems — to
the return of Prose's
beloved protagonist, Molly,
in *The Maid's Secret*, this
conversation is full of
intrigue, insight, and a few
delightful surprises along
the way.



PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR: MARCUS KIEWER & ROBYN HARDING

Saturday, June 6 | 1:30 PM | Emmanuel College, Room 119

Join **Robyn Harding** and
Marcus Kliewer for a
chilling conversation with
two masters of suspense.
Harding's *Strangers in
the Villa* unravels a
luxurious retreat in Spain
into danger and suspicion,
while Kliewer's
The Caretaker blends

supernatural horror with
psychological unease.
Experience gripping
readings and explore the
dark truths behind these
haunting thrillers.



**CRIME SCENE:
FRANCE –
HANNELORE CAYRE,
JOHANA
GUSTAWSSON,
SOPHIE HÉNAFF &
OLIVIER NOREK**

**Saturday, June 6
2:30 PM | Victoria College
Outdoor Quad**

*Generously supported
by The Honourable
Nicole Eaton*

Take a trip to France without leaving Victoria College! Step into the shadowy streets and sunlit villages with some of the biggest names in French crime writing as they explore how culture and literary tradition have shaped the genre and their predictions for what is to come in the future.



**THE RE-READ:
NICHOLAS
SHAKESPEARE ON
GRAHAM GREENE**

**Saturday, June 6 | 6:30 PM
Isabel Bader Theatre**

Novelist and biographer **Nicholas Shakespeare** reflects on his long connection with Graham Greene, first reading him at sixteen and later meeting and corresponding with the author. Exploring Greene's belief that the best thrillers are really moral investigations in disguise, join Shakespeare for a conversation that moves from the shadowy world of *The Third Man* and *Our Man in Havana* to the moral frontiers of *The Heart of the Matter* and *The Quiet American*.

**TRUTH, LIES, AND LEGACY:
LESLIE BRADFORD-SCOTT &
EDWARD CHISHOLM**

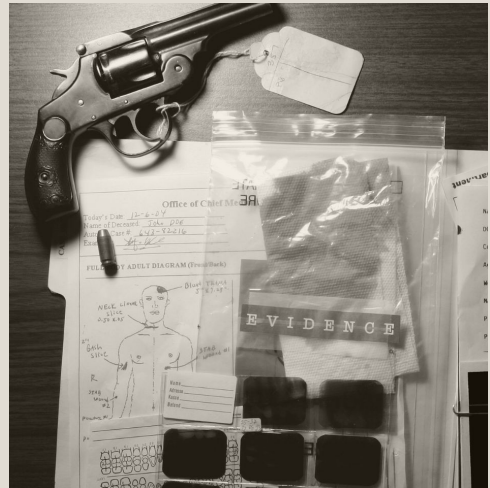
Saturday, June 6 | 3:30 PM Emmanuel College, Room 119

*Generously supported by The Goring Family Foundation
at Toronto Foundation.*



Join us for a compelling conversation on crime non-fiction, with **Leslie Bradford-Scott** and **Edward Chisholm**.

In *The Liar's Playbook*, Bradford-Scott unfolds the story of a childhood shaped by her father's secret involvement in espionage, organized crime, and explosive family secrets. Chisholm's *Murder in Paris '68* is a riveting investigation into the 1960s Parisian underworld.



**THE CODFATHER:
A MURDER MYSTERY DINNER**

Saturday, June 6 | 7:30 PM | Alumni Hall

Grab your friends and sleuthing caps for an evening of fun and mystery as guests are asked to help the police solve the murder of "The Codfather," a slippery criminal they've been trying to catch for years. You will be introduced to members of the "Family" who are all suspects in the case (played by some familiar faces you may have seen around the halls of **MOTIVE**), and it is your job to try to figure out whodunnit!

This special event requires a separate ticket and is not included in any Festival Passes.



TEA, CAKE, AND MURDER: RON BASE & SUJATA MASSEY

Sunday, June 7 | 11:00AM | Alumni Hall

Generously supported by Harriet Lewis and Eldon Bennett.

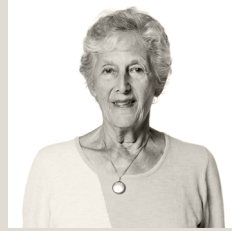
Join **Ron Base** and **Sujata Massey** for a conversation over tea about historical intrigue and mystery. Base presents *Midnight at the Savoy*, set in shadowy 1960s London, while Massey shares

The Star from Calcutta, a vivid historical mystery tracing the early days of Bollywood. Explore hidden stories behind fame, culture, and ambition — all served with tea, coffee, and a slice of cake!

OUT FROM BEHIND BARS: HANK IDSINGA & LORNA POPLAK

Sunday, June 7 | 11:30 AM | Emmanuel College, Room 119

Generously supported by The Gerald Schwartz & Heather Reisman Foundation.



Crime may not pay—but it makes for a compelling conversation. Join **Hank Idsinga** and **Lorna Poplak** for a riveting event exploring crime from both sides of the bars. Drawing from their books *The High Road: Confessions of a Homicide Cop* and *On the Lam: Great (and Not So Great) Escapes from Prison*, they share gripping cases, daring escapes, and sharp insights into justice, incarceration, and our fascination with true crime.

HIDDEN IDENTITIES: GENEVIEVE GRAHAM & JINWOO PARK

Sunday, June 7 | 1:00 PM | Alumni Hall

Generously supported by The Michael B. Decter Foundation at Toronto Foundation.

Don't miss this lively conversation between authors **Genevieve Graham** and **Jinwoo Park**, as they explore how the characters in each of their novels are pushed to confront what lies beneath the roles society assigns them. Graham's *The Chambermaid's Key* is a sweeping historical

tale where a seemingly invisible chambermaid finds herself at the heart of secrets. Park brings *Oxford Soju Club*, a witty, sharp story centred around the only Korean restaurant in Oxford, where clashing agendas expose a dangerous struggle over espionage, identity, and survival in the diaspora.



SHARI LAPENA: THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

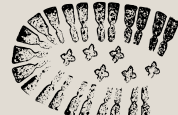
Sunday, June 7 | 4:30 PM
Isabel Bader Theatre

Generously supported by Gail & Mark Appel.

Celebrate 10 years of the book that had a huge impact on the psychological thriller genre! *New York Times* Bestselling author, **Shari Lapena**, will be taking the stage to discuss the book that started it all, *The Couple Next Door*. Following a young couple who seem to have it all, things take a turn when their baby is kidnapped from their home while they



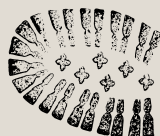
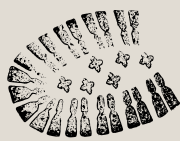
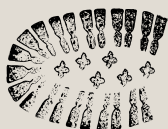
are next door at a dinner party and their lives begin to unravel, revealing lies and a shocking twist. Join the author as she talks about writing since the book, how the genre has changed, and what is to come.



FRIDAY SCHEDULE

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	BUILDING CHARACTERS with Johana Gustawsson	Victoria College, Room 215	Masterclass Ticket
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	CANADA BLEEDS: Steven Beattie, Margaret Cannon & Shari Lapena	Alumni Hall	Pass
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	BARE BONES AND BLOODY TWISTS: THE SKELETON OF THE CRIME NOVEL with Lilja Sigurðardóttir	Victoria College, Room 215	Masterclass Ticket
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	RURAL NOIR: Johana Gustawsson & Kevin Hardcastle	Victoria College Chapel	Pass
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	CONSPIRACY & COURAGE: Olivier Norek & Nicholas Shakespeare	Alumni Hall	Pass
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	SMALL TOWNS, BIG CRIMES: Stig Abell & Roz Nay	Victoria College Chapel	Pass
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM	TWISTS & TRUTHS: Clare Mackintosh & Nita Prose	Isabel Bader Theatre	Pass

All venues listed are located at Victoria University on the University of Toronto Campus.



SATURDAY SCHEDULE

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	TEA, CAKE, AND MURDER: Catherine Mack & Lev A. C. Rosen	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Pass</i>
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	THE BODY SNATCHERS OF TORONTO with Adam Bunch	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
11:00 AM – 12:00PM	CHILL BEFORE THE THRILLS: Meditative Morning Yoga for Crime Lovers	<i>Emmanuel College Chapel</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVE? Tom Ryan, Jonathan Whitelaw, Eva Jurczyk, Steven Beattie	<i>Emmanuel College, Room 119</i>	<i>Pass</i>
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	THE ANSWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: Ridge Patterns in Criminal Investigation	<i>Victoria College, Room 212</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	TORONTO CRIME TOURS	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	THE ART OF UNEASE: Eva Björg Ægisdóttir & Hannah Mary McKinnon	<i>Victoria College Chapel</i>	<i>Pass</i>
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	AFTER THE BEGINNING COMES THE END with Maureen Jennings	<i>Victoria College, Room 215</i>	<i>Masterclass Ticket</i>
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BOARD GAMES LOUNGE: City of Mist Role-Playing Game	<i>Victoria College, Room 211</i>	<i>Pass</i>
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	PITCH PERFECT: An Insider's Guide to Publishing	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	AMATEUR SLEUTHS: Tom Ryan & Leonie Swann	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Pass</i>
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	BEHIND CLOSED DOORS Robyn Harding & Marcus Kliewer	<i>Emmanuel College, Room 119</i>	<i>Pass</i>
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	UNCOVERING HIDDEN FRACTURES: Don Gillmor & Lilja Sigurðardóttir	<i>Victoria College Chapel</i>	<i>Pass</i>

All venues listed are located at Victoria University on the University of Toronto Campus.

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	CRIME SCENE: FRANCE Hannelore Cayre, Johana Gustawsson, Sophie Hénaff, Olivier Norek	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY WORKSHOP	<i>Victoria College, Room 212</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	MURDER BY ARCHETYPE: UNLOCKING CRIME STORIES WITH TAROT	<i>Victoria College, Room 215</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	MURDER ON THE MOVE: Eva Jurczyk & Jonathan Whitelaw	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Pass</i>
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	TRUTH, LIES, AND LEGACY: Leslie Bradford-Scott & Edward Chisholm	<i>Emmanuel College, Room 119</i>	<i>Pass</i>
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	DEADLY SECRETS: Hannelore Cayre & Doug Johnstone	<i>Victoria College Chapel</i>	<i>Pass</i>
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	CRIME SCENE: KOREA Kang Kwagil & Hye-young Pyun	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
4:00 PM – 6:30 PM	BOARD GAMES LOUNGE: Blood on the Clocktower	<i>Victoria College, Room 211</i>	<i>Pass</i>
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	USING MULTIPLE POINTS OF VIEW IN YOUR STORY with Robyn Harding	<i>Victoria College, Room 215</i>	<i>Masterclass Ticket</i>
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	EVERYDAY DETECTIVES: Jane Doucet & Uzma Jalaluddin	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Pass</i>
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	FRESH BLOOD: CRIME WRITERS OF CANADA'S 2026 DEBUTS & HOT READS	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	SECRETS OF THE PAST: Johana Gustawsson & Kang Hwagil	<i>Emmanuel College, Room 119</i>	<i>Pass</i>
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	THE RE-READ: Nicholas Shakespeare on Graham Greene	<i>Isabel Bader Theatre</i>	<i>Pass</i>
7:30 PM – 10:00 PM	THE CODFATHER A MURDER MYSTERY DINNER	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Special Event Ticket</i>

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

All venues listed are located at Victoria University on the University of Toronto Campus.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	TORONTO'S INFAMOUS VICTORIAN POLICE CHIEF with Adam Bunch	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	TEA, CAKE, AND MURDER: Ron Base & Sujata Massey	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Pass</i>
11:00 AM – 12:00PM	CHILL BEFORE THE THRILLS: Meditative Morning Yoga for Crime Lovers	<i>Emmanuel College Chapel</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	INVISIBLE EVIDENCE: WASTEWATER DRUG SURVEILLANCE	<i>Victoria College, Room 212</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	HOW TO EAT AN ELEPHANT... & OTHER PLOTTING ADVICE with Hannah Mary McKinnon	<i>Victoria College, Room 215</i>	<i>Masterclass Ticket</i>
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	OUT FROM BEHIND BARS: Hank Idsinga & Lorna Poplak	<i>Emmanuel College, Room 119</i>	<i>Pass</i>
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	PAGE TO SCREEN: MYSTERY EDITION	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	DETECTIVE ON DUTY: Maureen Jennings & Desmond P. Ryan	<i>Victoria College Chapel</i>	<i>Pass</i>
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	HIDDEN IDENTITIES: Genevieve Graham & Jinwoo Park	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Pass</i>
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	BOARD GAME LOUNGE: MYSTERIUM PARK BOARDGAMES	<i>Victoria College, Room 211</i>	<i>Pass</i>
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	BEFORE THE BOOK DEAL: Crime Writers of Canada's Rising Voices Read Raw	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	MURDER BY ARCHETYPE: UNLOCKING CRIME STORIES WITH TAROT	<i>Victoria College, Room 215</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED: Sharon Bala & Karma Brown	<i>Emmanuel College, Room 119</i>	<i>Pass</i>
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	AMERICAN DREAMS & MYSTERIES: Naomi Hirahara & Kevin Jagernauth	<i>Victoria College Chapel</i>	<i>Pass</i>
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY WORKSHOP	<i>Victoria College, Room 212</i>	<i>Pass + Registration</i>
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	DEADLY EDITING with Doug Johnstone	<i>Victoria College, Room 215</i>	<i>Masterclass Ticket</i>
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	HISTORY MAKING FICTION Genevieve Graham & Olivier Norek	<i>Outdoor Quad</i>	<i>Free</i>
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	PSYCHOLOGICAL FAULTLINES: Nicole Lundrigan & Hye-young Pyun	<i>Alumni Hall</i>	<i>Pass</i>
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	A-LIST CRIME: Sophie Hénaff & Anne-Sophie Jouhanneau	<i>Emmanuel College, Room 119</i>	<i>Pass</i>
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	SHARI LAPENA: THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY	<i>Isabel Bader Theatre</i>	<i>Pass</i>



FESTIVAL INFORMATION

BOOKSTORE HOURS

Friday **1:00 PM – 9:00 PM**
Saturday **10:30 AM – 9:00 PM**
Sunday **10:30 AM – 6:00 PM**

BOARD GAME LOUNGE

Victoria College, Room 211

Saturday **12:30 PM – 6:30 PM**
Sunday **11:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

BOX OFFICE

Friday **12:30 PM – 8:00 PM**
Saturday **10:00 AM – 8:00 PM**
Sunday **10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

FOOD & DRINK

*Available for purchase in the
Victoria College Lobby*

Propeller Coffee Stand

Saturday & Sunday **10:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

Snacks & Sandwiches

Saturday **12:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
Sunday **12:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Cash Bar

Saturday **3:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
Sunday **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

TICKET PRICING

3 DAY PASS

(June 5 – 7)

Regular **\$79**

Under 30 **\$39**

FRIDAY PASS

(June 5)

Regular **\$24**

Under 30 **\$15**

WEEKEND DAY PASS

Saturday, June 6 or Sunday, June 7

Regular **\$36**

Under 30 **\$20**

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER \$49

MASTERCLASSES \$39

Prices listed above do not include HST.



A **MOTIVE Pass** is your ticket to explore as much of the Festival as you wish.

Book your Pass online at FestivalofAuthors.ca/MOTIVE, or in-person at the **MOTIVE** box office.



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**TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS**

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LITERARY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 28 – NOVEMBER 1, 2026

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ACCESSIBILITY & SUPPORT

+ STAFF LISTING

ACCESSIBILITY

TIFA is committed to providing a welcoming and accessible experience for all. We embrace the principles of dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity to serve our visitors with disabilities and our community at large. We value a Festival experience that is barrier-free, and all of our venues offer accessible seating.

If you have questions, or if finances are an obstacle to your attendance, please email info@festivalofauthors.ca

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Help us write the next chapter of storytelling in Toronto.

We couldn't have created **MOTIVE** without the passion of our donors. As TIFA establishes a new home for stories in the heart of the city, your support brings acclaimed authors and emerging voices to Toronto's most iconic venues. Join us in expanding access to these unforgettable literary experiences.

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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VC VICTORIA COLLEGE

Ground Level	2nd Floor
Box Office & Bookstore	Victoria Chapel
Alumni Hall	Board Game Lounge, Room 211
Food & Drink	Workshops, Room 212
Information + Lost & Found	Masterclasses, Room 215

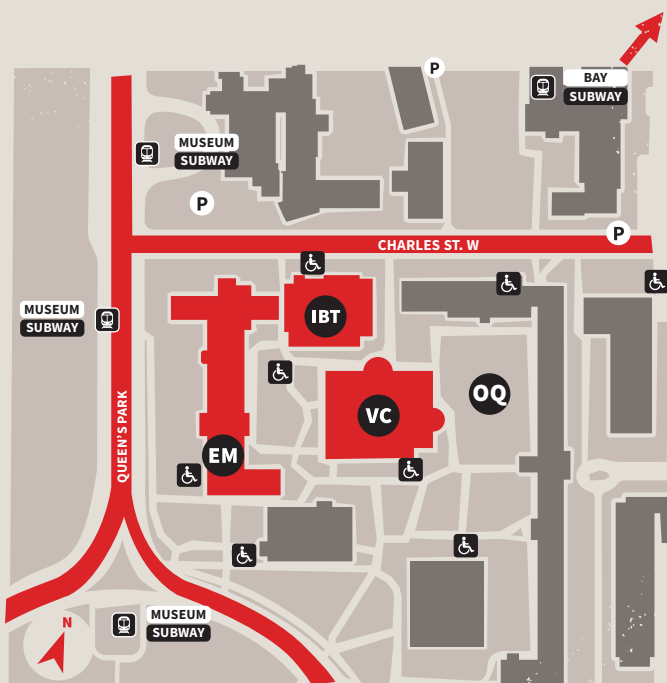
EM EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Ground Level	3rd Floor
Room 119	Emmanuel Chapel
	Emmanuel College Library Lounge

IBT ISABEL BADER THEATRE

OQ OUTDOOR QUAD

Free Events



All events take place at Victoria University, on the University of Toronto Campus, near Queens Park and south of Bloor Street. Nearest TTC stations are Museum and Bay.

Green P municipal parking is available on Charles St. W., Saint Thomas Street, Bloor St. W. between Saint Thomas and Queen's Park Crescent, and Bay Street.

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