



## ***LIFELONG LEARNING MISSISSAUGA***

### **The Rollicking History of the English Language**

**Tuesdays, October 15 to December 3, 2013, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon**

**Mississauga Valley Community Centre  
1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd, Mississauga, ON, L5A 3R8**

**Presenter: Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady**

Why is English spelling so chaotic? Why do we have so many synonyms? What might your name tell you about the history of the language? What is the history behind your favourite language pet peeve? This course is a highly informative and entertaining survey of the influences that have shaped English vocabulary over the years, covering the Anglo-Saxon and Viking origins, the influx of Norman French and Central French, later Latin and Greek borrowings, standardization and French borrowing in the 18th century, and international borrowing since the 18th century. We will tie linguistic developments in with the social and political events with which they coincided. Forget your dull high school English classes as Katherine Barber takes you on an ever-entertaining and surprisingly hilarious trip through a crazy language.

#### **October 15: Celts and Anglo-Saxons**

Why we have "feet" instead of "foots" and why we use the apostrophe for the possessive. German origins of our essential vocabulary and grammar.

#### **October 22: Vikings**

Why we wear skirts and shirts. Why the verb "to be" is so ridiculous. Blame the Vikings.

#### **October 29: The Norman Invasion**

Why we have "pigs" in the open and "pork" on the plate. The Norman Conquest, Medieval England and the origins of chaotic English spelling.

#### **November 5: Renaissance English**

Spelling and pronunciation don't jibe. Why is there a "b" in "debt" and an "h" in "ghost"? Why do some folks say "y'all"?

#### **November 12: The 18th Century**

Re-examining our pet peeves. British spelling and American spelling are different. Why?

#### **November 19: The 19th Century to the Present**

Why some people pronounce "herb" with an "h" and others without. Why Lufthansa supplies its first class passengers with "body bags."

#### **November 26: American English**

Have they corrupted the language? Canadian English: How we can be very confusing to other English speakers.

#### **December 3: Writing Dictionaries**

Not as dull as you might think: How do new words enter the language? What do lexicographers do?

**Registration Fee: \$40.00 per person per series**

**For more information, go to [www.lifelong-learning-mississauga.com](http://www.lifelong-learning-mississauga.com)  
or phone 647-300-4878**