

Join experts from the **Bluewater Astronomical Society** on August 7 for some heavenly views under one of Ontario's last truly dark sky locations. *Public Night Sky Viewings* are free and will be held just outside of Grey Roots in the parking lot. The event starts at dusk and can only take place if the sky is mostly clear. All Night Sky Viewing dates have a crescent moon to view along with at least two good planets.

Until Labour Day, enjoy wandering through *Moreston Heritage Village* at your own pace, any time from 11am to 4:30pm, talking with our knowledgeable costumed volunteers about life in bygone days. Or, join one of our three daily guided tours (11:15am, 1:15pm, and 3:15pm) through the Village with a Historic Site Interpreter to ask questions about the Village, future village plans, and about the main facility.

Dinosaurs Unearthed will inspire curiosity and capture the imagination with dinosaurs at an exciting time in history. Three lifelike and life-sized animatronic dinosaurs, as well as a T-Rex

head, a feathered T-Rex juvenile, stunning fossils and a *Gasosaurus* skeleton, take centre stage in this family friendly exhibit. Hands-on activities include the 'Designosaurus' colour wheel and a kid's dig area offering an immersive way for amateur paleontologists to make their own fossil discoveries. This exhibit is available until Labour Day.

Four years and more than 8000 volunteer hours later, the diorama representing the east side of the Owen Sound Harbour circa 1910, is now the centrepiece of *Arrivals & Departures: The CPR in Grey County*. This original exhibit also includes beautifully designed interpretive panels and rail artefacts and is available until 2017.

Grey Roots combines Museum, Archives, and Tourism services under one roof and is located at 102599 Grey Road 18, a few minutes south of Owen Sound. It is open seven days a week, from 10am to 5pm, until Thanksgiving. For information on any of the programs or services at Grey Roots, please refer to our website at www.greyroots.com or call (519)376-3690 or toll free 1-877-GREY ROOTS. **¶**

TREES 'N' TRAITS: BEECH – "SENSITIVITY"

Neil Baldwin

Much like identifying with a power animal that bolsters your resources, this series asks you to consider trees which may exemplify your traits. This month consider the Beech. Easily recognizable and distinctive from any other species in Grey-Bruce, its smooth grey bark looks like an elephant leg in the forest. Beech has sparsely-toothed oblong leaves that sometimes, especially on younger trees, stay attached into winter like light-brown paper fans. Tiny, sharply-angled beech nuts, food for many animals, are often found widely scattered underneath.

Beech is highly shade tolerant, able to continue growing beneath and among the canopy of other trees. As such, growth is slow and particularly affected by trees and the environment which surround it. Unlike other tree's bark that gets thicker and furrowed with age, Beech bark does not change much

in appearance – it is thin and retains signs of injury or distress. Bears love Beech nuts and their climbing scratches are etched into the tree's history. Lovers who have carved their initials into a Beech return decades later to see their love immortalized almost as clearly as the day they professed it.

Do you have a calm outer appearance yet find you are inevitably touched in an enduring way by the people and events around you? Are you one to nourish and sustain others rather than to rise above them and deplete their light? Perhaps you share characteristics of the Beech. Due to Beech's ability to grow in locations overshadowed and accompanied by other trees, it is often found in the final stage of forest succession. If you are a Beech, you may be one of those people who remain quietly and steadfastly in the company of others as they grow and mature. Beech is about stillness, peace and grace, but with that

comes a deep sensitivity to what is happening around you. Like the bark which holds scars, and leaves which persist into winter, perhaps emotional happenings (as well as wounds) tend to stay embedded in you. If your reminiscence of feelings tends to be deep-seated, this may be another sign Beech is your tree.

We are gradually losing our Beech in Grey-Bruce as bark disease (woolly scale) and bleeding canker become widespread. If you are a Beech and need strength, put yourself in the company of this gentle tree. You will still find many, interspersed with maple, along the trails west and southwest of the falls in Inglis Falls Conservation Area. Another great spot to connect with Beech is Kinghurst Nature Reserve, accessible from Concession 4 or 6 north of Grey Road 25. Here, if you look, you will find several mature Beech willing to share their sage sensitivity with you. Next month: Oak. **¶**

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We are a mixture of new and published writers.

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For more information contact:

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