



The Dark Horse Collective

Ontario Humanist Voices and Reflections

March 2026

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Dark Horse Collective*, a newsletter dedicated to informing, uniting, and inspiring Humanists, atheists, and agnostics across Ontario.

More than a listing of events and activities, this new initiative brings together like-minded individuals and communities to connect, exchange ideas, celebrate milestones, and elevate public discussions toward greater understanding, reason, and meaningful progress. Our goal is to cultivate a stronger, more vibrant sense of shared purpose and community.

Send suggestions for news articles, events, and personal stories to: Hotline@sofree.ca

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- March 29: Potluck & Presentation in Brantford
- April 2-5: Play in Fergus: "White Plague"
- April 12: Brunch & Discussion in Guelph
- April 26: Potluck & Presentation in Brantford
- May 16-17: Theatre Fundraiser (online)
- Featured Poem: Excerpt from *Spring* (Walt Whitman)
- Podcasts & Online Forums

The Dark Horse is a collaborative effort by

SOCIETY OF FREETHINKERS

NEW DAWN ATHEISTS

ATHEIST COMMUNITY OF AUSTIN ~ Canadian Branch



Society of Freethinkers

SOFREE

Community. Reason. Ethics. Dignity. • www.SOFREE.ca

Founded in southern Ontario in 1992, the **Society of Freethinkers (SOFREE)** is a multicultural charitable organization rooted in Humanist principles. SOFREE advocates for human rights, supports fair and ethical public policies, and fosters a welcoming community that provides a caring and supportive space for those adopting a secular Humanist way of life. We host engaging events, offer valuable resources for learning about Humanist philosophy and literature, and serve as a trusted resource for connecting individuals and families with licensed Humanist Officiants who bring warmth and dignity to marriage ceremonies, baby welcomings, funerals and memorials, and other meaningful life events. Click on this link to subscribe to event updates: <https://sofree.ca/event-email-list/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pub Night in Burlington

Friday, March 27 @ 7:00 PM

RSVP by March 27



Join us at the **Carrigan Arms** for an evening of camaraderie, live music, classic pub fare, good times with friendly Humanists, and... a little karaoke!

Come and raise your glass, your voice, and your spirits as you make happy memories with new and longtime friends!

Please confirm your attendance in advance to: Events@sofree.ca so that we can coordinate seating with venue staff.

The Carrigan Arms pub is at **2025 Upper Middle Road** in Burlington, Ontario. There is free parking on-site.

Guelph Brunch

Sunday, April 12 @ 11:00 AM

RSVP by April 11



Enjoy quality time with friendly Humanists and tasty menu offerings in a welcoming environment decorated with classical Mediterranean-inspired art.

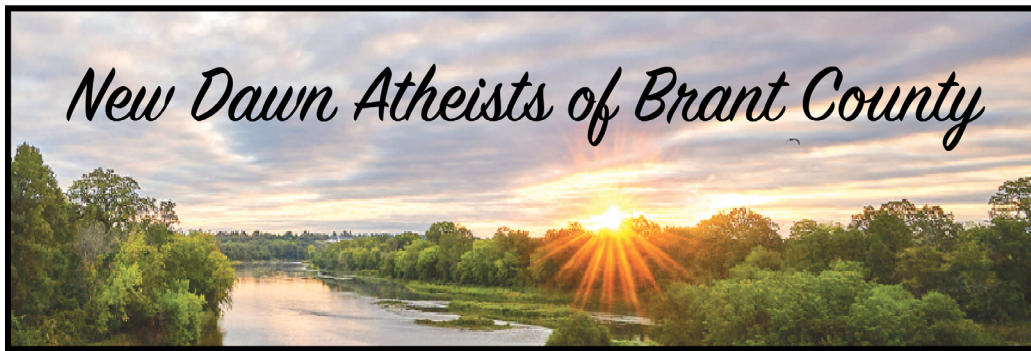
Our brunch will be held at the **Symposium Café** in Guelph in one of the reserved event rooms. Please confirm your attendance in advance to: Events@sofree.ca so that we can coordinate seating with venue staff.

The Symposium Café is at **304 Stone Road West**, across the street from Stone Road Mall. There is lots of free parking on-site.



Humanists believe that purpose and morality are inherent to the human condition, and that our interconnectedness is the driving force for cultivating love, peace, and compassion in our global community.

www.SOFREE.ca



The **New Dawn Atheists of Brant County** is an informal social group composed of like-minded people who live in Brantford and in surrounding communities. We value the questioning of beliefs and enjoy the company of others who share that value. Our friends tend to describe themselves as atheist, rational skeptic, humanist, or agnostic. We also value camaraderie as we plan social events together and use Facebook to communicate with our followers and friends about upcoming events.

Here is the link to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3159854437606124>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brantford Potlucks & Presentations

Sunday, March 29 @ 10:00 AM

RSVP by March 28



How People Change Their Minds

Join us at the **Carriage House** for a friendly potluck brunch and presentation by Canadian atheist blogger **Lilith Liberated** from both her channel and from "The Blasphemer's Bible" from Aron Ra's channel. Lilith is an "exvangelical" adding her voice to the growing conversation about the harms of conservative and fundamentalist Christianity while shedding light on the thinking that sustains such beliefs.

Please confirm your attendance by March 28 to: Events@sofree.ca or via the New Dawn atheist Facebook page so that we know how many people to expect and can arrange seating.

Sunday, April 26 @ 10:00 AM

RSVP by April 25

Safety in Entertainment

Join us at the **Carriage House** for a friendly potluck brunch and presentation by Canadian performer, artist, and entrepreneur, **Alexandra Boyd**, who founded **The Glass Slipper Company** in Paris, Ontario, in 2017. The company provides costumed performers portraying princesses, heroes, and villains for birthday parties, stage productions, and community events. Alexandra's talk will focus on how to assess risk and ensure greater safety for performers, workers, and audiences.

Please confirm your attendance by April 25 to: Events@sofree.ca, or via the New Dawn atheist Facebook page so that we know how many people to expect and can arrange seating.



*The Carriage House is located at 96 West Street, Brantford, ON N3T 3E7
(the venue behind Thorpe Brothers Funeral Home)*

There is lots of free parking on-site.



Art, Music, and Literature



THE DATES

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 at 8:00 PM *
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 at 8:00 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 at 8:00 PM

* Discount Performance

THE LOCATION

FERGUS GRAND THEATRE
244 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N7

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

In the remote wilderness of Northern Canada, St. Camillus Consumption Sanitarium stands as a crumbling monument to faith, fear, and forgotten lives. Here, modern medicine is cast aside in favour of penitence, prayer, and punishing isolation. Margaret Sanderson, a young Métis nurse with a shadowed past, tends quietly to the dying — and to the ghosts that linger just beyond the veil. But when Cornelius 'Red' McIntyre, a beloved Irish tenor, arrives at the sanitarium barely clinging to life, strange things begin to stir... and then McIntyre dies, before resurrecting three days later.

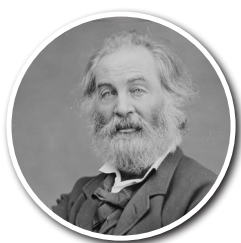
A gothic mystery woven with identity, religious guilt, and the supernatural, White Plague is a chilling meditation on celebrity and faith that begs the age-old question: "What makes a Messiah?"

Tickets and more details at:

<https://www.pennyandpoundtheatre.com/white-plague>

Humanist Musings

Excerpt from the poem **Spring** by Walt Whitman



*Give me of you O spring,
I with the spring waters laughing and skipping and running,
Again old heart so gay, again to you, your sense, the full flush spring returning,
Again the freshness and the odors.
Every spring will I now strike up additional songs—
Nor ever again forget, these tender days, the chants of death as well as life.*





The **Atheist Community of Austin (ACA)**, is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization based in Austin, Texas. The ACA is dedicated to promoting atheism, critical thinking, secular humanism, and the separation of religion and government. It serves the local Austin community through outreach programs, providing informational resources and various volunteer activities. In addition, the ACA serves the community-at-large, including a large Canadian audience, through free online portals such as audio/video podcasts and social media.

The ACA is affiliated with several national and international groups devoted to atheism, freethought, or secular humanism. We see that people can be compassionate, giving, and live happy lives without a god belief. We see that we can have community with each other and work towards a common goal.

Visit the ACA online at: <https://www.atheist-community.org/>



The **Atheist Experience** is a long-running podcast show broadcasted to YouTube and TikTok. This show is one of several shows produced by the **Atheist Community of Austin (ACA)**. The Atheist Experience invites viewers to explore questions about religion, ethics, and reason through open dialogue and critical inquiry. Known for its candid conversations and rigorous questioning, the show has become a widely recognized platform for promoting reason, curiosity, and respectful debate around the world.

Visit the Atheist Experience online at: <https://www.atheist-experience.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Fundraiser May 16 - 17, 2026

The ACA will be hosting a spring fundraiser May 16 to 17 during a 24-hour stream. Two Canadian organizations, the *Society of Freethinkers (SOFREE)*, a registered charity in southern Ontario, and *Penny & Pound Theatre Productions*, a performing arts company also in southern Ontario, support the efforts of the ACA. Donations raised during the ACA fundraiser will also help support our Canadian friends.

The show airs on Sundays 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM CT and you can watch it on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/TheAtheistExperience>



The Society of Freethinkers (SOFREE) is a multicultural charitable organization dedicated to advancing Humanist principles and fostering genuine fellowship among our members and the wider secular community. We advocate for the application of reason and critical thinking, promote ethics and compassion, uphold human rights, and support equitable public policies.

Visit SOFREE online at: www.sofree.ca



Penny & Pound Theatre Productions is dedicated to providing a safe and inclusive environment where people of all ages can explore their creativity, express their emotions, and celebrate their unique voices. Through a supportive and collaborative community, the company nurtures and celebrates self-discovery, personal growth, and artistic confidence.

Visit Penny & Pound Productions online at: <https://www.pennyandpoundtheatre.com/>

Podcasts & Online Forums



Humanist Hour

Join us on **APRIL 7 @ 7:00 PM (ET)** in a new online space for thoughtful conversation, genuine curiosity, and meaningful connection.

To ensure a constructive and enriching environment, please observe the following guidelines:

- **Show kindness and respect.** We may not always agree, but we treat each other with consideration and goodwill.
- **Listen generously.** Seek to understand before responding.
- **Engage thoughtfully.** You may challenge and critique ideas, not people.
- **Stay curious.** A willingness to explore, question, reflect, and even change your mind is central to authentic dialogue.
- **Honour confidentiality.** Personal stories shared here are to remain private and treated with discretion.
- **Share the space.** If you are usually quiet, we welcome your voice; if you speak often, we appreciate your awareness in making room for others.

Whether we discuss a planned topic or allow conversation to evolve organically, our goal is the same: to encourage dialogue that is reflective, respectful, and grounded in reason, compassion, and our shared human experience.

Interested? Email us at: Hotline@sofree.ca More details coming soon at: www.SOFREE.ca/HumanistHour



Trevor is a Canadian video creator whose work explores belief, doubt, and the search for meaning. He is the host **Belief It Or Not**, a podcast on YouTube that examines religion, skepticism, and personal reflection with wit and curiosity. Drawing from his own de-conversion experiences as a former Christian and youth pastor, Trevor brings empathy and humour to difficult and often uncomfortable conversations about morality, identity, and community.

Visit **Belief it or Not** online at: <https://www.youtube.com/@BeliefItOrNot>



Viced Rhino is the online persona of **Justin**, a Canadian YouTuber known for his keen critiques of religious dogma—especially young Earth creationism. His videos dismantle pseudoscience with wit and reason, and he advocates for secular perspectives. “Viced Rhino” is an anagram of Eric Hovind, a famous figure in creationist circles whose ideologies Justin challenges through evidence-based commentary.

“Hello! I do response videos to pseudo-scientific nonsense on YouTube, with the goal of winning the Internet! Also, I’m Canadian. Sorry. Not for being Canadian, for the fact that you might not be.”
- Viced Rhino

Visit **Viced Rhino** online at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/VicedRhino>

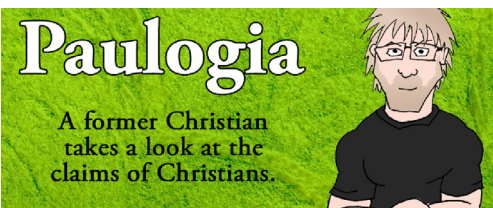


Logicked is run by a Canadian atheist and skeptic blogger known simply as **The Lodge**.

“I make no claim to being a scientist, philosopher, historian, mathematician, astrophotographer, journalist, wine expert, golf champion, or space marine. I am a self-educated layman and these videos are partially a learning tool.

If I make a claim, double-check it before you take it as fact. I’m as fallible as anyone and there are a few known errors in my videos. But my arguments and reasoning stand or fall on their own merits. - The Lodge

Visit **Logicked** online at: <https://www.youtube.com/@logicked>



A former Christian takes a look at the claims of Christians, wherever science is being denied in the name of ancient books.

“It is my mission to help those ‘still in the maze’ of indoctrinated belief, those recently escaped, and those who enjoy the exploration.” - Paulogia

Visit **Paulogia** online at: <https://www.youtube.com/@Paulogia>