

RULE #1:

DON'T PANIC

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
TO THE GALAXY



Vancouver Public Library

PROGRAM GUIDE

2010



IT WAS YOUR PICK VANCOUVER!

This year's *One Book, One Vancouver* winning book was chosen by Vancouver residents. For three weeks in June, Vancouverites voted online and at the Library's 21 branches for the book they think we should all read this fall.

The choices were: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie or *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

And in a vote closer than the hairs on the head of a ravenous bugblatter beast of Traal, you chose Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*! This 1979 classic is rich with intelligent satire, hilarious dialogue and thought-provoking situations that have withstood the test of time (and some say space itself).

From September 26 to November 30, grab your towels, set your satirical phasers to stun and join us for amazing galactic events and contests to celebrate and bring this great book alive.

Welcome to this year's *One Book, One Vancouver* and happy travels!

VANCOUVER: WE HAVE LIFT-OFF.

One Book, One Vancouver is presented by Vancouver Public Library in partnership with:



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ABOUT THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

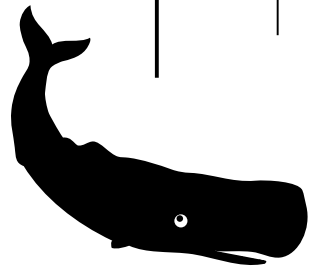
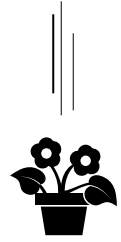
“Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the western spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun.”

from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

One Thursday the Earth is unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. Seconds before it is destroyed, hapless hero Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor.

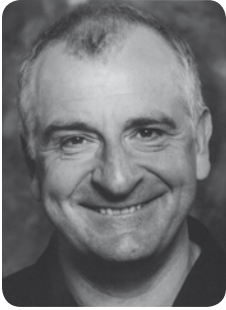
Together they begin their journey through space aided by quotes from the *Guide* such as: "A towel is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have". And a galaxy full of fellow travellers: Zaphod Beeblebrox - the two-headed, three-armed ex-hippie and totally out-to-lunch president of the galaxy; Trillian, Zaphod's girlfriend (formally Tricia McMillan) whom Arthur tried to pick up at a cocktail party once upon a time zone; and Marvin, a paranoid, brilliant and chronically depressed robot.

For Arthur Dent this already seems more than he can cope with. Sadly, however, the weekend has only just begun and the galaxy is a very strange and startling place.



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy began as a BBC Radio 4 series. Since first airing in March 1978, it has been transformed into a series of best-selling novels, a TV series, a record album, a computer game and several stage adaptations. The book went straight to Number One on the UK Bestseller List. One of the most beloved, well-know and iconic books ever written, H2G2 is sure to please fans of Monty Python, Terry Pratchett's Discworld series and British sitcoms.

ABOUT DOUGLAS ADAMS



Douglas Adams was born in Cambridge, England in March 1952. He was educated at Brentwood School, Essex and St. John's College, Cambridge where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 1974 (and later a Masters degree) in English literature.

Adams created all the manifestations of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* which started life as a BBC Radio 4 series. He followed this success with *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe* (1980); *Life, The Universe and Everything* (1982); *So Long and Thanks for all the Fish* (1984); and *Mostly Harmless* (1992). The first two books in the *Hitchhiker* series were

adapted into a fabulously successful six-part television series that aired in 1982.

In 1984 Douglas Adams, at 31 years old, became the youngest author to be awarded a Golden Pan from Pan Books, the UK publisher of the book series. He accomplished the rare feat of winning two more and was nominated for the first Best of Young British Novelists awards. Over 15 million of his books have sold in the UK, the US and Australia and they have become best-selling translations in German, Swedish and many other languages.

Adams' other publications include *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* (1987) and *The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul* (1988). In 1984 Adams teamed up with John Lloyd to write *The Meaning of Liff* and *The Deeper Meaning of Liff* in 1990. In 1990 he joined zoologist Mark Carwardine to write *Last Chance to See* – an account of a world-wide search for rare and endangered animal species. It was one of Adams' personal favourites.

Adams was a founding director of h2g2, formerly The Digital Village, a digital media and Internet company where he created the 1998 CD-ROM *Starship Titanic*, a Codie Award-winning and BAFTA-nominated adventure game.

Adams died unexpectedly in May 2001 of a sudden heart attack. He was 49. He was living in Santa Barbara, California with his wife and daughter and at the time of his death he was working on the screenplay for a feature film version of *Hitchhiker*.



“If there's anything around here more important than my ego, I want it caught and shot now!”

MOSTLY HARMLESS

INTERGALACTIC EVENTS & CONTESTS

THRESHOLD OF CONTACT: EXPLORING UFO ORIGINS

Explore the origins of UFOs and discuss advanced technologies from extraterrestrial civilizations with the BC UFO Society.

Tue October 19 – 7 p.m.

Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 W. Georgia St.

TRAVEL WRITING WORKSHOP: PITCHING TRAVEL ARTICLES

Become a better intergalactic travel writer by learning how to add value to your articles that editors and readers can't resist. Presented by author and freelance writer by Julie H Ferguson.

Wed October 20 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Level 7, Central Library, 350 W. Georgia St.

Registration required. Please call 604-331-3603.

FILM SCREENING:

DISTRICT 9 & HITCH HIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

Just in time for Halloween! Break out your best alien costumes and come and enjoy a double bill of Academy Award-nominated *District 9* and, of course, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Prizes for best costume!

Fri October 29 – 7 p.m.

Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 W. Georgia St.

ROCK 101'S LIGHTS OUT PRESENTS: THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY - THE PRIMARY PHASE

Tune into Rock 101 in November and listen to the original 1970s radio play that started it all! Rock101 Lights Out - www.rock101.com/Shows/LightsOut.aspx

Part 1 & 2 (Sun November 7 – 11 p.m.)

Part 3 (Sun November 14 – 11:30 p.m.)

Part 4 (Sun November 21 – 11:30 p.m.)

Part 5 & 6 (Sun November 28 - 11 p.m.)

DRAWING LIFE, THE UNIVERSE & EVERYTHING: DRAWING GRAPHIC NOVELS 101

Learn how to illustrate your own guide to life, the universe and everything with graphic novel artist Julian Lawrence. No experience necessary. Materials provided. Open to all ages.

Wed November 17 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Peter Kaye Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 W. Georgia St.

Registration required. Please call 604-331-3603.

VOGON POETRY SLAM & VOG-OFF

Come to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe for our first-ever Vogon Poetry Competition. Fifteen of the universe's WORST poems will be presented *slam style* for your pleasure (or not). Come to cheer on your favourite Vancouver Vogon and you may win a prize!

Mon November 29 – 7 p.m.

Alma Van Dusen & Peter Kaye Rooms, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 W. Georgia St.

HITCHHIKER'S INNOVATION EXPO

So much of Douglas Adams' vision for the future has come to pass. Come and see what the future holds for us! Check out the latest gear, eco-gadgets and technology at our expo and electronic petting zoo. First 100 visitors get a free *One Book, One Vancouver* iPhone cover!

Sat November 20 – 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Promenade, Central Library, 350 W. Georgia St.

CONTESTS

VOGON POETRY CONTEST

Are you the best Vogon poet in Vancouver? Does your poetic prose melt paint off walls or cause spontaneous vomiting? Do your sonnets make even the hardest criminals beg for mercy? Prove it and win \$100!

We are looking for 15 of the absolutely worst poems in the universe to be presented *slam style* at our evening gala on November 29. If selected, you will present your work in the most outlandishly horrible fashion possible to gain the favour of five randomly selected judges. To enter, send your best Vogon poem to programs@vpl.ca by November 12.

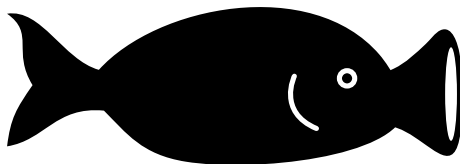
VISION 2040 TIME CAPSULE

Here's your chance to shock and confuse humankind thirty years from now. We want to send 42 hilarious, ridiculous and/or useless items from 2010 (things like the 1970s pet rock or the slapchop) into the future for the next generations to, err, enjoy. If we can't find a use for them, maybe they can!

To enter, tell us what item you think should go into the Vision 2040 Time Capsule with an explanation of how you think this item might be useful in the year 2040.

If selected, we will ask you to provide your item (so be careful what you're suggesting), which will be almost hermetically sealed and stored at the Central Library only to be opened 30 years later. No perishable items, please!

Contest details and entry forms will be available at www.vpl.ca/obov from November 1-30.



READ, LISTEN & DOWNLOAD H2G2 AT THE LIBRARY!

For your convenience and reading pleasure, the Library has specially purchased 300 copies of H2G2. You can also experience the wonderful and wacky world of Douglas Adams' H2G2 in several formats including books, ebook, CD, DVD, graphic novel, radio scripts, TV series and much, much more! For more information, please contact your friendly neighbourhood library.

THE H2G2 TRILOGY (YES THERE ARE SIX, BUT THAT'S H2G2)

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1979)
The Restaurant at the End of the Universe (1980)
Life, the Universe and Everything (1982)
So Long And Thanks For All The Fish (1984)
Mostly Harmless (1994)

And Another Thing by Eoin Colfer (2009; Eoin Colfer was chosen to write the sixth book after Adams' death.)

“Life? Don't talk to me about life!”

Marvin, the Paranoid Android.

ESSENTIAL H2G2-RELATED BOOKS

Don't Panic: Douglas Adams & The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
by Neil Gaiman, 2002, 2009

Hitchhiker: A Biography of Douglas Adams
By M.J. Simpson, 2003

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Filming of the Douglas Adams Classic
Edited by Robbie Stamp, 2005

The Rough Guide to The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
By Marcus O'Dair, 2009

The Salmon of Doubt: Hitchhiking the Galaxy One Last Time
By Douglas Adams with foreword by Stephen Fry, 2002
Also available in audiobook.

The Science of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
By Michael Hanlon, 2005

“Space is big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big it is. I mean, you may think it's a long way down the road to the chemist's, but that's just peanuts to space.... ”

from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE (AND THOSE WHO LIVE IN IT)

50 Years in Space: What We Thought Then...What We Know Now

By David A. Hardy & Patrick Moore, 2006

One of the world's best-known astronomers and host of the BBC's *The Sky at Night* joins forces with celebrated space artist David Hardy in a lavishly illustrated look at our evolving images of space.

The Alien Abduction Survival Guide: How to Cope with your ET Experience By Michelle La Vigne, 1995

A self-help book for those who have been abducted by aliens. A good resource for those seeking to avoid having to go through this life-changing experience alone.

Do Your Ears Pop in Space? And 500 Other Surprising Questions About Space Travel

By R. Mike Mullane, 1997

From shuttle pilot duties to what the heck is a *vomit comet*, this highly recommended book written by NASA astronaut Mike Mullane tackles an array of questions for those interested in space travel.

Tourists in Space: A Practical Guide By Erik Seedhouse, 2008

Research scientist and astronaut training consultant Erik Seedhouse produced this informative handbook that discusses many aspects of space travel from types of spacecraft available to the medical training one must undergo. Don't forget your towel!

LOVE H2G2, WICKEDLY FUNNY SATIRE, SCIENCE FICTION, BRITISH COMEDY OR A COMBINATION OF THESE? THEN YOU MIGHT LIKE THESE AUTHORS:

Jasper Fforde, Stephen Fry, Neil Gaiman, Tom Holt, Terry Jones, Monty Python's Flying Circus, Christopher Moore, Marie Phillips, Terry Pratchett, Robert Rankin, Spider Robinson, Kurt Vonnegut, Connie Willis

Want more? Please contact your friendly neighbourhood library or visit vpl.ca/obov.

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD WEBSITES

INFO, INTERVIEWS, FUN FOR FANS & VERY, VERY, VERY BAD POETRY

For your convenience, the friendly, talented staff at Vancouver Public Library have created this list of the top H2G2 websites. For more great sites, visit the *One Book, One Vancouver* website, vpl.ca/obov.

www.douglasadams.com

Douglas Adams' personal website which now functions as an archive, tribute and memorial.

www.bbc.co.uk/cult/hitchhikers

BBC's original site for ALL things H2G2! A fun, interactive and fully functioning website with many topics to explore including the Vogon Poetry Generator, games and cool interviews.

www.zz9.org

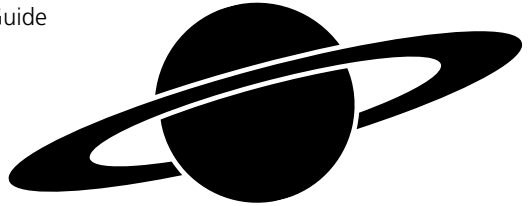
The website of the Official Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Appreciation Society.

www.towelday.org

Do you know where your towel is?

www.6of3.com

Check out the newest edition to the H2G2 world. *And Another Thing* is the sixth instalment to H2G2's ever-expanding trilogy. Featuring video interviews with author Eoin Colfer, galleries, games and a whole lot more.



MORE FUN & GAMES

“Because time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so.”

from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/hitchhikers/game.shtml

20th anniversary edition of the Hitchhiker's game.

FUN FACTS FOR FROODS

FROOD – *A really amazingly together guy. (eg. There's a frood who really knows where his towel is.)*

- ↪ The *Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy* was first published in London on October 12, 1979. However, it was first a six-episode broadcast on BBC radio in Spring 1978.
- ↪ Douglas Adams also wrote scripts for the famous *Dr. Who* series and helped create the video game *Starship Titanic* with Terry Jones.
- ↪ If you type "What is the answer to life, the universe, and everything?" into the Google calculator, you'll get the answer 42 (the same answer found in H2G2).
- ↪ One of IBM's chess-playing computers was named Deep Thought.
- ↪ The day before Adams' death, The Minor Planet Centre of the International Astronomical Union named asteroid 18610, "Arthurdent" after the main character in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series, Arthur Dent.
- ↪ Marvin the Paranoid Android was originally written as a one-time joke for the radio series. Marvin, however, became an instant fan favourite and the show's producer urged Adams to develop Marvin into one of the series' main characters. The Radiohead song *Paranoid Android* is a reference to Marvin the Paranoid Android.
- ↪ The Hitchhiker's series was the first comedy radio show on the BBC to be broadcast in stereo.
- ↪ And remember, "one's never alone with a rubber duck."
- ↪ Sass this out, my hoopy friends! More facts and fun for froods available at www.vpl.ca/obov.
- ↪ So long and thanks for all the fish!

October 10, 2010 = 10/10/10 = 101010. This is binary for 42.

(Note to self: Make ten double Pangalactic Gargle Blasters, kick back and celebrate H2G2.)

HEAD TO SPACE!

...OR THE CLOSEST WE CAN GET!



Just show your Vancouver Public Library card and receive 20% off admission to the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre for you and your guests during October and November.

10%
Discount

1 per customer
expires 30 Nov 2010

WHITE DWARF BOOKS

This coupon entitles you to a 10% discount on your next purchase of books from White Dwarf Books.

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