

LEARNING UNLIMITED ETOBICOKE

Curriculum Committee

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

In 2021, the Curriculum Committee organized 6 successful lecture series. All of the lectures were presented as Zoom webinars.

Winter Series: January to March 2021

	TOPIC	SPEAKER	RESEARCHER/CHAIR
Tuesday	Historic Steets of Toronto	Marta O'Brien	Loretta Fines
Wednesday	The Power of Mythology	David Chandross	Pamela Guy
Thursday	America in the Cold War and Beyond	Dr. Peter Harris	John Wilson

Fall Series: October to December 2020

	TOPIC	SPEAKER	RESEARCHER/CHAIR
Tuesday	Advances in Medicine	Dr. Philip Wood	Loretta Fines
Wednesday	Perils in Paradise: Oceanic Islands	Dr. Tony Davis	Judy McCormick
Thursday	Intersection of Film, Original Music and Pop Culture-Part 2	Bob Bryden	Deb Forsyth-Petrov

At the end of each lecture series, a survey is done to obtain attendees' ratings of our lecture topic, our speakers, their subject knowledge and their presentation and delivery. The survey is done using Zoom and is shown to all attendees as they leave the webinar. The response rate has varied from 45% to 77% in the Fall 2021 session.

In the survey, all of our speakers received very high ratings for their subject knowledge and delivery. The topic of the lecture series also received very high approval ratings.

The final section of the survey asked attendees for their comments and feedback. Many attendees chose to make comments. This has allowed the Committee to better understand our audience. Attendees told us that they live in many parts of Canada (from B.C. to New Brunswick) and take our lecture series with them when they go on vacation in the US and other places.

We also learned that a number of attendees want us to continue to deliver our lectures on Zoom permanently. Their reasons are varied: some do not drive, some have mobility

issues or they are caregivers and cannot get out. Many live too far to ever consider coming to an in-person lecture in Etobicoke. Also many commented they do not wish to travel or drive to Fairfield in winter weather. In addition, attendees who are immuno-compromised do not wish to join any in-person lectures even after Covid restrictions are lifted.

For details about the number of people who registered for each lecture series, please see the Registrar's Report.

The role of the MC has evolved since we started delivering our lectures on Zoom. In addition to introducing the speaker and reading the questions during the Q & A part of the lecture, the MC's also: make announcements about future lecture series to promote the future lectures, announce the start date for registration, recruit candidates to apply for open position on the Board and provide information about the LU website and its contents and other pertinent information.

Pamela Guy, a long time volunteer at LU and a member of the Curriculum Committee for over 20 years, resigned from the Committee in October. Pam introduced her first speaker to the Fairfield audience in 1999. She is responsible for many of the excellent lecture series that have been presented. We will miss her knowledge and history of past speakers and lecture topics.

The Curriculum Committee is grateful to our very knowledgeable Zoom Hosts: Len Klochek, Roger Tessier and Neil Kirby. Each of the Zoom hosts has been a great partner to work with: in rehearsals with our speakers and MC's, in delivering the lectures and providing Zoom reports to the Committee members. Len also provided the trumpet call that reminds attendees that the 5 minute break is over and it's time for the Q& A session to start.

The Curriculum Committee would like to thank the many people who have contributed to making our lecture series successful in 2021. This includes our speakers, the LU Tech Team and especially our enthusiastic, thoughtful attendees.

As Chair, I want to add my thanks to the members of our Committee who have worked diligently and ensured the success of our 6 lecture series and our plans for future lecture series in 2022 and 2023.

Respectfully,

Judy McCormick,
Chair, Curriculum Committee

Committee Members in 2020

Loretta Fines, Deb Forsyth-Petrov, Pamela Guy, Shirley Hartt, John Sheppard, John Willson, Glenn Yaffee