

# LEARNING UNLIMITED ETOBICOKE

## Curriculum Committee

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

In 2022, the Curriculum Committee organized six successful lecture series. All of the lectures series were presented as Zoom webinars.

#### Winter Series: January to March 2022

	TOPIC	SPEAKER	RESEARCHER/CHAIR
Tuesday	Russian Literary Revolutionaries	Dr. Julia Zarankin	Loretta Fines
Wednesday	The Roaring 20's (NY, Berlin, Paris)	Dr. Peter Harris	Pamela Guy
Thursday	Nordic Europe: From Vikings to Modernity	Dr. Carolyn Harris	Deb Forsyth-Petrov

#### Fall Series: October to December 2022

	TOPIC	SPEAKER	RESEARCHER/CHAIR
Tuesday	Black Canadians: A History	Deidre McCorkindale	Loretta Fines
Wednesday	The Beatles and Their Music	Dr. Mike Daley	Shirley Hartt
Thursday	Special Places and Remarkable People	Dr. Tony Davis	Judy McCormick

Our lecture series continue to see registration totals that exceed the capacity of Fairfield. In the Winter 2022 series the total registered was 696 and in the Fall our total was 491. Historically, our Winter total registrations have exceeded our Fall totals.

As is our normal practice, we conducted a survey of attendees after each of our Zoom lecture series. We asked attendees to rate (1) the lecture topic (2) the speaker's knowledge and (3) the speaker's presentation and delivery and then we asked if they planned to register for future LU lectures. The Committee uses this information to identify speakers that we would like to have again for future lectures and what topics are most interesting to our attendees. Our participation rate in this Zoom survey was between 63% and 73% of attendees at the final lecture.

The final section of the survey asked attendees for their comments and feedback. A small selection of comments from the Fall survey are included below:

*"I live in Ottawa and go away for a couple of months each winter. Being able to participate in these lectures both in Canada and while away have been a really great experience. During*

## LEARNING UNLIMITED ETOBICOKE

*COVID lockdowns they were a help in continuing to be intellectually stimulated from my home."*

*"In person is nice but Zoom is much easier for me as I age and my ability to do things is less."*

*"Looking forward to once again being in the company of fellow LU members. It's a little lonely out here in ZOOM land. "*

*"Interesting and thought -provoking sessions."*

*"I enjoy and am grateful for the opportunity to engage in a learning opportunity which LU provides so efficiently. It is easy to participate on Zoom and the price is very reasonable!"*

The members of the Curriculum Committee seek out interesting topics and find speakers who can speak on these topics. They also have taken on the role of MC for each Zoom session to introduce the speaker each week, deliver announcements from the LU Board and during the Q & A session, act for the attendees in reading the questions and comments submitted to try to create a dialogue between the speaker and the attendees.

The Committee has finalized the speakers and the course outlines for Fall 2023 and Winter 2024.

A long-term LU volunteer, Loretta Fines has resigned from the Curriculum Committee after serving in multiple LU positions since 2008. She served as Vice-President, President, Past-President and a valuable member of the Curriculum Committee. She is responsible for many of the excellent lecture series that we have had. The committee will miss her experience and deep knowledge of LU's history.

The Curriculum Committee is grateful to our very knowledgeable Zoom Hosts: Roger Tessier, Len Klochek 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

The Curriculum Committee would like to thank the many people who have contributed to making our lecture series successful in 2022. This includes our speakers, the LU Tech Team, the LU Board and especially our enthusiastic and curious attendees.

As Chair, I want to add my thanks to the members of our committee who have worked diligently to ensure the continued success of our lecture series and our plans for future lecture series in 2023 and 2024.

**Submitted by: Judy McCormick, Chair, Curriculum Committee**

**Committee Members in 2022 : Loretta Fines, Deb Forsyth-Petrov, Shirley Hartt, John Sheppard, John Willson, Glenn Yaffee and Jane Botsford**