

Hello All:

I have had the pleasure of serving as your president since April 2021.

This is our second “COVID year,” holding all of our lectures virtually through ZOOM. And they ran flawlessly. My thanks to the Technology Committee, chaired by Len Klochek with able assistance from board member and webmaster Roger Tessier, for making this magic happen.

Also, the Curriculum Committee (Judy McCormick chair) is to be heartily thanked for delivering a consistently engaging and informative course line-up. The addition of new board member Jane Botsford will only strengthen this committee.

Without these two essential committees we would not be able to function.

ZOOM has permitted us to welcome record numbers of attendees, in the comfort and safety of their own homes. While this has the advantage of convenience, the social aspect of meeting with our peers in person at Fairfield is lacking. The board is keenly aware of this and, once the COVID risk has subsided, will pursue in-person alternatives for at least part of our offering.

This year also marks a transition in how we view the governance of Learning Unlimited Etobicoke. With the passage of provincial legislation governing incorporated not-for-profit organizations such as us, we need to review our procedures to ensure they remain in compliance with legislation and revise our bylaws accordingly. For this, I am truly grateful that we have Rich Bailey, our corporate secretary, on the team to keep us informed. Most of this is “inside baseball” by its nature and should have no material impact on the membership.

Financially, we are in good shape and with the addition of Betty Horton, who has graciously agreed to succeed me as Treasurer, we will be able to adapt to our regulatory and reporting environment.

Our reporting secretary, Rosemary Tessier, has been a constant source of good humour and support during the year and does a great job at making sense of our board meeting minutes.

While the registrar function has been somewhat simplified through the use of ZOOM and PayPal, we have benefited greatly from the care and attention paid to it by Yash Sthankiya who is retiring from the board at the annual meeting. We will miss you Yash and are grateful for your diligence and support over the years.

In the absence of in-person attendance, our social chair, Audra Hudek, has had a much-reduced role this past year and we look forward to a time when we can re-activate the important social committee function.

My thanks also go out to Deb Forsyth-Petrov, our vice president and Third Age Network representative, for keeping me in line and focused.

Finally, my deepest appreciation to Glenn Yaffee, our past-president, whose constant advice and support have been essential to Learning Unlimited as we grapple with the inevitable issues that arise in running an organization during time of change.

And, of course, my thanks to you, our membership, whose support and kind comments on course surveys make this all worthwhile. We look forward to continuing delivery of excellent content at a very reasonable cost starting with our fall line-up which is posted to our website.

Respectfully submitted

John Willson

June 2022