



The Lifelong Learner

April 2011

Volume 10, Number 2

President's Message

After attending a recent workshop on Volunteer Board leadership, I reviewed resources available to us from Volunteer Alberta and Volunteer Canada. Information from their websites gave me the inspiration for this message.

“Volunteers play a vital role in our society. Across Canada, volunteers are engaged in delivering services and programs that improve and enhance the life of our communities. They also are representatives of and reflect the organization.”

This statement certainly describes ELLA. Our most valuable asset is our members. Through the commitment of many volunteers, ELLA is able to put together and run its annual Spring Session. Due to their efforts, we can offer our students a full program, with 4-5 daily courses given over three weeks for only \$220 - \$245. This is exceptional value for 75 to 90 hours of instruction. Compare our registration fee to those recently being charged to take only one course on a similar topic offered by other institutions in the city:

- Computer essentials Basic course \$ 339 for 18 hours
- Summer writing course \$ 315 for 12 hours
- Latin American Dance \$ 105 for 12 hours
- History of Canada \$ 720 for 45 hours

Two factors help us keep our costs down. Our partnership with the University provides us with classroom space and equipment, office space and computer use at no cost. The other factor is our wonderful volunteers. If we had to pay staff to perform the activities which are handled by our volunteers, our registration fees would probably be similar to those listed above.

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ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Agenda

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of those individuals who have contributed to a total of almost 3,000 hours by the end of March this year. As a non-profit organization we rely on you to help us with tasks such as choosing our instructors, maintaining our membership database, answering the office phone, distributing brochures, and fulfilling countless other roles.

“Organizations are only as good as the people who work within them; and that is no exception for the non-profit/voluntary sector. The strongest organizations have the most capable leaders who can pull together great teams”

This last point is important to ELLA. Not only do we need volunteers to work on committees, but we also need several new Directors to replace those Board members whose terms will be completed in May. Under your leadership we can continue to fulfil the mandate of offering quality programs each year. Please consider giving back by putting your skills and experience to work and taking on new challenges. You will be supporting an organization you believe in while connecting with people who have similar interests. We welcome your input to keep ELLA strong.

Looking forward to meeting all of you in May!

Nancy Rae – President, 2010-2011

Ambassadors of Goodwill

When you arrive on May 2 for our 10th Anniversary Spring Session, look for members with yellow name tags and friendly faces. They will be there bright and early and circulating through the Education Centre ensuring that everyone receives the assistance they require.

Each morning and lunch hour ambassadors will assist at the information table, provide information, sell tickets to our luncheon and wind-up party, accept donations, renew memberships and assure our Bring-a-Buddy program runs smoothly. They will also provide assistance at our AGM and other special events.

We have commitments from approximately sixteen members who are interested in becoming ambassadors. Mary Anne King and Lois Pawl will conduct an orientation session on **Thursday, April 21 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm** in Room 122 of the Education Building to familiarize our volunteers with their duties and the classrooms we will be using.

If you are interested in joining us as an ambassador, please call the ELLA office at 780-492-5055 or email us at exella@ualberta.ca.

The mission of the ambassador program is to make this an exciting and memorable ELLA session particularly for the 100+ new members who are joining us for the first time.

Mary Ann King and Lois Pawl, Ambassador Team Leads

What to Expect on the First Day of the Spring Session

Construction Alert!

Construction in the rotunda of Education South and the Cafeteria area was scheduled to be complete by the end of April. Surprise! It will not be done until mid-May! The area should be passable, but space will be a bit constricted, so we have a few suggestions:

Our registration tables will be in the main floor hallway of Education North. We hope many of you will check in early on the first day, then move towards your first classroom of the day.

Lunch and Leisure Space

Construction has consumed part of the eating area near the cafeteria in Education. The cafeteria is still open, but there are fewer tables available than in past years. On the first day, you might want to eat your bag lunch, then join us in Room N2-115 for the Anniversary Party and cake and coffee and tea. There is some lounge space outside Room N2-115. Room 262 in Education South will be available for lunch and leisure time all day for the first two weeks of the Spring Session.

Anniversary Celebration

We hope you will eat lunch on the first day, then join us in Room N2-115 for our 10th Anniversary Celebration.

Enrollment is Way Up!

As of mid-April, our enrollment is over 344, up 30% over last year. Wow! ELLA is no longer a secret!

Enrollment does not exceed the seating available in any class, but please use all seats available, not leaving the ones in the middle of the rows for the late comers.

Election Day!

After (or before) a stimulating and exciting first day at ELLA

Don't Forget to Vote for your Federal Government candidate!!

ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Plan on attending the ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday, May 17th at 12:15** in room N2-115, Education North. ELLA is your organization. We need your ideas and participation to help us present the programs you want.

A copy of the agenda is included at the end of this newsletter.

If members wish to have specific motions brought up at the AGM, they must be received in writing by the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

Illustrious ELLA Founder, Joyce Buchwald

We were delighted to see a glowing article about Joyce Buchwald, one of ELLA's founding members, in the Alberta Ballet program. Joyce has been a subscriber and donor to Alberta Ballet for 45 years, and was on the ELLA board and an incredibly hard-working Program Chair in ELLA's early years. Her husband, the late Dr. Herb Buchwald, was the author of ELLA's first set of bylaws. Joyce was able to combine her interest in the arts with her dedication to lifelong learning by inviting artists, including Alberta Ballet's Jean Grand-Maître, to speak at ELLA.

We look forward to seeing Joyce wandering the hallways of the Education Building and at ELLA classes again this year.

Photographers Wanted!!

Ever wonder where we get the pictures in the calendar, newsletters and on the website? Do you like to take photos at weddings and parties? ELLA needs an ELLA participant (or two or three...) with a digital camera to take pictures at the 2011 Spring Session: the classes, the parties, the casual conversations, the field trips, the fitness fun, the salsa dancing, the painting studios, the art show launch, the birthday cake, the catnaps...

If you have a camera and can help us to record what promises to be the best Spring Session ever, please call the ELLA office at 780-492-5055 or email us at exella@ualberta.ca.

You Could Be In Pictures

ELLA keeps photographic records of our Spring Session. Therefore, our volunteer photographers will be roaming the halls and classes, taking informal shots of our members enjoying themselves! As you will have noted, these are then used when we print out brochures, prepare the calendar, and update the website.

If you do not wish to have your photograph taken, we ask you to please inform the photographer and move out of the camera range.

Bring-A-Buddy

ELLA hopes it can offer its popular Bring-a-Buddy program again at the 2011 Spring Session. However, because we have so many more registrants than in 2010, students will be required to register their guests in advance for a specific day, likely only for weeks 2 and 3. There may be restrictions for some classes.

Full information will be available at the information table of the Spring Session.

Early Bird Winners

If you registered for the Spring Session by March 31, your name was entered in a draw. Congratulations to these two Early Bird Winners!

First Prize: Lois Pawl – a ticket to ELLA’s Wind-up Party

Second Prize: Margith Hansen – a ticket to the ELLA Social Luncheon

Lapsed Members

Early in the winter, we began to wonder why we had had some members disappear over the last four years. We thought we should find them, and ask if we had disappointed or offended them. A team of volunteers, headed by Nga de la Cruz, phoned all the ones we could find. With every phone call we met with people genuinely glad to hear from us. The responses were heart-warming, and from 100 phone calls, 15 members are back with us for the Spring Session. However, some calls were sadly indicative of the years advancing on most of us.

“I am happy that you called! ELLA is wonderful. I enjoyed the courses very much and I will come back!”

“My heart is with ELLA but, my health will not let me do things any more.”

“I have problems walking and standing, but I want to be kept on the list and be informed about ELLA.”

“My health does not allow me to attend courses any more. But I would like to attend the 10th Anniversary Celebration, may I?”

The answer is yes, of course!! Please do come and join in the celebration at noon on May 2!

Nga de la Cruz, Board Member at Large

Perfume Etiquette

Due to the allergies/sensitivities of many of our participants, ELLA respectfully requests that all participants refrain from the use of strong perfume, perfumed cosmetics or after-shave lotions.

ELLA Book Exchange at the Information Table

Very popular last year. Bring a book / Take a book.

Social Events for 2011

10th Anniversary Welcome Celebration

A fabulous way to kick off the Spring Session. Host David Barnet, guest speaker Jim Hole, and your ELLA board will entertain and inspire you to jump into this year's program wholeheartedly. Join us at **Noon on Monday, May 2**, the first day of the session, in Room N2-115, Education North for this celebration, followed by cake and refreshments in the adjacent hallway lounge. Morning classes will finish early at 11:30 this day, allowing time for a quick lunch first (food is not permitted in the theatre venue). Afternoon classes resume at 1:30, 15 minutes later than usual, so we can visit, greet new members, and enjoy ELLA ambiance to the max!

Social Luncheon

Tuesday, May 10, noon, in the 4th Floor Lounge (N4-110) in Education North. This will be a relaxed event, not part of the AGM this year. Tickets (\$13) for the catered lunch will be on sale at the information table until May 9, but you are also welcome to brown bag it.

The ELLA Candidates Forum

Friday, May 13, 12:15 in ED 129 in Education South. Listen to fellow ELLA members who are volunteering to join the ELLA Board. If you want to be a Board candidate, please let us know at the information table by Thursday May 12...We'd love to meet you!

ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday, May 17, 12:15 in N2-115 in Education North. We need all ELLA members to join us to make decisions for the coming year. Join us to make ELLA even better!

Wind-up Social at the Faculty Club

Thursday, May 19 starting at 4:30. By then, you should have about 350+ new best friends! Tickets (\$15) will be available at the information table (Deadline is May 17). Tasty snacks will be provided and there will be a cash bar.

Unmatched, Mixed and Unframed:

An Exhibition of ELLA Student Artwork – Opening Reception **Friday, May 20**, Extension Art Gallery, Enterprise Square, 10230 Jasper Ave. Show continues until June 16.

Volunteer Profile: Meet Lorraine Jeffery

Did you ever wonder who designed the beautiful 2011 ELLA Calendar cover? It was our own ELLA member, Lorraine Jeffery. Lorraine first took our Watercolour class in 2009. She loved it so much she is taking a three-week vacation from work this spring to take the same course again with her favourite instructor, Frances Alty-Arscott.

Graphic Designer

Lorraine currently works as a Graphic Designer for the Alberta Government. At her current job, she has the opportunity to paint and illustrate fish and wildlife species and the Alberta landscape.



Lorraine the Artist

After taking her first oil painting class in grade 5, Lorraine has been hooked on painting ever since. She now works in mediums of watercolour, gouache, acrylics and oils. Lorraine's love of the mountains and water is apparent in her art. You will find samples of her paintings by [clicking here](#).

Lorraine's paintings have found homes across the province. She finds it very rewarding when another person enjoys her art enough to proudly display it in their home or office. Her motto is:

“Paint with pleasure and passion, while defining confidence.”

Volunteer

Lorraine is one of ELLA's highly valued volunteers, producing the wonderful ELLA Calendar cover design using Adobe Illustrator. She enjoys volunteering with us as it provides the opportunity for her to meet new people and to share her talents. She thinks that our organization keeps getting better year after year!

ELLA members can look forward to meeting Lorraine in our Watercolour course this May, or join her dancing up a storm in the Cardio Salsa class or learning Yoga.



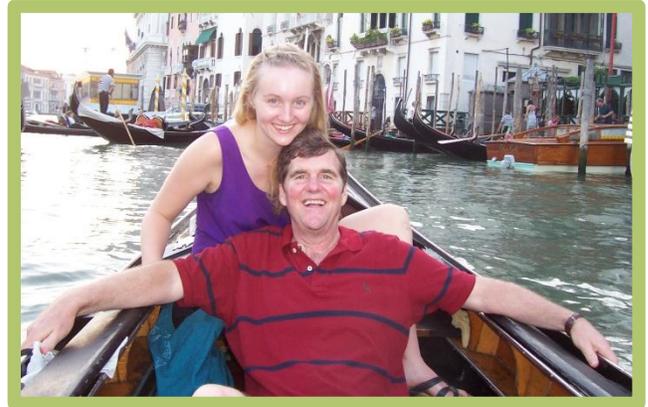
Volunteer Profile: Meet Don Retson

One of the best parts about ELLA is the wonderful and varied people you meet! Don joined ELLA in May 2010, and was so enthusiastic about his new discovery that he volunteered immediately for the Publicity Committee. Here is profile of Don:

Reporter/ Editor

Don worked as a reporter/editor for smaller newspapers in England and across Canada, then joined the Edmonton Journal in 1986. His boundless enthusiasm and energetic play on various Journal sports teams earned him the nickname “The Wrecking Machine” (aka “The Wrecker”).

One hopes that this referred to his prowess over the competition, not his treatment of his team mates! Don took a buyout from the Journal in 2009.



Don and his daughter in Venice

MS Ambassador

After Don was diagnosed with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis in 2000, he became more active in volunteer work. As an MS Ambassador, Don puts a human face on the disease in talks at elementary schools where he talks about MS and how it affected former NHL all-star Dave Balon of the Montreal Canadiens who was stricken with MS in his early 30s.

Volunteer

When ELLA discovered Don and his experience in journalism, an obvious connection was made about how he could be a dynamic member of the Publicity Team. After checking out various publications focused on the 50+set, Don contacted various editors, offering to write about ELLA. Each story pitch was tailored to the target demographics of that publication. As a result, ELLA received widespread media coverage...many of you may have first heard about ELLA from one of Don's articles!

Don highly recommends volunteering for ELLA. He believes that the best way to stay mentally and physically healthy is to exercise one's brain and body. “That is what ELLA is all about—fun and stimulating courses where we're able to stretch our minds and bodies. ELLA really does make a difference. It's why volunteering for this organization is so rewarding.”

Noon-hour Speakers and Events

Except where otherwise specified, all speakers and events mentioned below are scheduled from 12:15 to 1:00 pm in room 129 Education South.

Monday, May 2

10th Anniversary Celebration - begins at 12:00 noon.

Join us in room 2N-115 Education North in honour of ELLA's 10th Anniversary. Jim Hole will be our keynote speaker, followed by entertainment, a Board presentation, coffee, tea and cake.

Tuesday, May 3

Nanotechnology: Much Ado About (Almost) Nothing

Dr. Greg Goss, Professor
U of A Biological Sciences Department

Wednesday, May 4

African Grandmothers - the Manzini Experience

Louise Barr and Vicki Strang
Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation

Thursday, May 5

Land Reclamation in the Athabasca Oil Sands

Dr. Anne Naeth, Professor
U of A Land Reclamation and Ecological Restoration

Friday, May 6

Urban Development One Block at a Time

Don Iveson
Edmonton City Councillor, Ward 10

Monday, May 9

Muslim Communities in Canada

Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, Islamic Chair
U of A Political Science Department

Tuesday, May 10

The Luncheon - begins at 12:00 noon

Located in the 4th Floor Lounge in Education North. Tickets are available for \$13 from the Information table. Come for good food and a chance to socialize and listen to a Jazz ensemble!

Wednesday, May 11

The Diamond Age of Music: Sixty Years at the ESO

Annemarie Petrov
Executive Director, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, May 12

The Future of History in Edmonton

Ken Tingley
City of Edmonton Historian Laureate

Friday, May 13

The ELLA Candidates' Forum

Hear from people who will be running for the ELLA Board at next week's General Meeting. Nominations to be submitted by Thursday, May 12. Please consider joining the ELLA Board!

Monday, May 16

A Prairie Piano Player in Darkest Ottawa

The Hon. Tommy Banks
Member of the Senate of Canada

Tuesday, May 17

The ELLA Annual General Meeting

Your chance to participate in the running of ELLA. In room N2-115, Education North

Wednesday, May 18

Black Holes in the Universe

Dr. Craig Heinke, Assistant Professor
U of A Physics Department

Thursday, May 19

The Literary Cafe

This session will showcase the writing of ELLA members. Hosted by Shirley Serviss, an author and frequent ELLA instructor.

The Wind-up Party - begins at 4:30 pm

Held at the U of A Faculty Club. Tickets are available for \$15 from the ELLA information table.

Friday, May 20

The Future for Health Care in Alberta: Challenges and Opportunities

Diana Gibson
Research Director of the Parkland Institute

May 20 to June 16

Unmatched, Mixed and Unframed: An Exhibition of ELLA Student Artwork

From 7:00 am to 9:00 pm in the main floor Extension Art Gallery of Enterprise Square, 10230 Jasper Ave. Opening Reception: 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday, May 20.

Information Centre

ELLA Board 2010-2011

<p>Board Members</p> <p><i>President:</i> Nancy Rae <i>Vice President:</i> Don Chadsey <i>Secretary:</i> Faith Fernalld <i>Past President:</i> Ray Lieberman <i>Treasurer:</i> Charles Toth</p> <p>Members at Large: Ruth Bertelsen, Chips Reid, Nga de la Cruz</p>	<p>Committee Chairpersons</p> <p><i>Administration:</i> Ray Lieberman <i>Publicity:</i> Enneke Lorberg <i>Program Development:</i> Ted Snow <i>Program Implementation:</i> Germaine Chau <i>Communication:</i> Jan McGregor <i>Bylaws & Policies:</i> Don Chadsey <i>Finance:</i> Charles Toth <i>Social:</i> Peter Wightman <i>Nominations:</i> Ray Lieberman</p>
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How to Contact ELLA

Phone:	(780) 492-5055. <i>If nobody answers, leave a message; calls will be answered year round. The office is open and staffed but not manned on a daily basis.</i>
Email:	exella@ualberta.ca
Visit or Write:	Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA) U of A Faculty of Extension Suite 2-936B, 10230 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4P6.
Office Hours:	<p>Please note that as this is a non-profit organization, our office is run entirely by volunteers.</p> <p>February 14, 2011 – April 29, 2011 <i>Open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm</i></p> <p>May 2, 2011 – May 20, 2011 <i>Office closed*. 2011 Spring Session is on at the Education Centre.</i></p> <p>May 23, 2011 – October 4, 2011 <i>Closed for the summer*.</i></p> <p>October 5, 2011 – December 14, 2011 <i>Open every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm</i></p> <p>December 14, 2011 to January 2, 2012 <i>Closed for Christmas</i></p> <p><i>* When the office is closed, volunteers check regularly for voice mails, emails and Canada Post letters. Efforts will be made to respond promptly to all messages.</i></p>
Website:	www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella

NOTICE

THE ELLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday May 17, 2011
Education Centre, University of Alberta
Room N2-115
From 12:15 – 1:15 pm

AGENDA

Call to order: 12:15 pm

Welcome to the AGM by the President Nancy Rae

1. **Adoption of Agenda**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Previous AGM – Wednesday May 19, 2010
3. **Reports of Officers:**
 - President: Nancy Rae
 - Treasurer: Charles Toth
 - Acceptance of Audited Statement 2010
 - Appointment of an Auditor(s) for 2011-2012
4. **Reports of Committees:**
 - Administration Committee – Chair, Ray Lieberman
 - Bylaws and Policies Committee – Chair, Don Chadsey
 - Communications Committee – Chair, Jan McGregor
 - Program Development Committee– Chair, Ted Snow
 - Program Implementation Committee – Chair, Germaine Chau
 - Publicity Committee – Chair, Enneke Lorberg
 - Social Committee – Chair, Peter Wightman
5. **Election of Directors:**
 - Nomination Committee - Chair, Ray Lieberman
6. **New Business**
7. **Closing Remarks:** President Nancy Rae

Please keep a copy of this agenda for the AGM and bring it to the meeting. To save on printing costs, only a few copies will be available at the door.

The minutes of the 2010 AGM can be viewed and downloaded from our website:

http://web.extension.ualberta.ca/extcms/index.php/ella/annual_general_meetings