

The Lifelong Learner

April 2013 Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 3

President's Message

"You don't stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing."

George Bernard Shaw



Wow - Spring Session is only a few short weeks away! It is time to learn and share a good laugh with friends. Spring Session is also when the Board and other volunteers enjoy the results of a year's worth of work.

Planning for the next Spring Session begins as soon as the current session ends. In May and June the information on the evaluation forms are compiled and used by the Board and the program development and implementation committees to make sure that the next session takes into account your input.

In June the ELLA Board meets to review our Strategic Plan to ensure that our priorities remain true to ELLA's vision to create "*a dynamic community of lifelong learners (adults aged 50 and older) who actively participate in learning*". You can access ELLA's [Strategic Plan](#) on our [website](#).

Throughout the year, volunteers are busy identifying and contacting potential instructors and presenters; reviewing course descriptions; and staffing the office. These are just some of the many tasks and myriad of details undertaken by volunteers to make Spring Session successful. A list of members who volunteered in 2012-13 will be posted during Spring Session and published in our Annual General Meeting (AGM) report.

How can you help ELLA? Become a volunteer. Read this newsletter's article *Volunteering for ELLA*. At Spring Session, stop by the information table, fill out a volunteer form, and take the time to ask Board members and other volunteers about the different ways that you can volunteer. I'm looking forward to learning and laughing with you at Spring Session.

John Elliot – President, 2012-13

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ELLA Annual General Meeting

Please attend the ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on:

Tuesday, May 14th at 12:00 noon
Room N2-115, Education North

The notice and Agenda for the AGM is included at the end of this newsletter.

2012-13 reports are available on the ELLA website

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

You can also contact the ELLA office to request that a copy of the reports be mailed to you. A limited number of copies of the 2012-13 reports will be available for review during Spring Session at the information table, and at the AGM.

Other important dates are:

Wednesday, May 8, 11:30 a.m.	Deadline for Board of Directors nominations
Wednesday, May 8, noon	All-Candidates Forum in room N2-115
Friday, May 10, noon	Deadline for member motions for AGM

Nomination forms can be picked up and left with a Board member or at the information table. Member motions should also be left at the information table in an envelope addressed to **Secretary ELLA Board, AGM Motion**.

The Latest on Spring Session 2013

8:00 am Monday, April 29th

It all starts at the ELLA information table just down the hall from the main-floor cafeteria of the Education Centre. Please arrive early enough before your first class to pick up your name tag and handouts, find out where your classes are, and receive a coupon for a complimentary coffee or tea. The coupon is redeemable at the cafeteria on April 29th or 30th for a coffee or tea of any size.

Ambassadors

If you are new to ELLA, don't worry! Thanks to the Ambassador Team Leads – Mary Ann King, Lois Pawl and Wendy Saunders, smiling Ambassadors will be available to help find your way around the Education Centre and answer your questions about Spring Session. You can read more about Mary Ann and Lois in the [April 2012 newsletter](#) article *Ambassadors of Goodwill*.

Over 430 Spring Session Participants!

As of the end of March, we have over 430 ELLA members registered. The ELLA Board wanted to ensure as much access and comfort as possible, so courses were moved to larger available rooms. Please keep in mind that there may be longer lines for washrooms and at the cafeteria.

We have the use of the largest lecture theatre in the Education Centre (room N2-115). However, this room has a maximum capacity of 240 participants. This means that for the Welcome Event, N2-115 cannot accommodate all the registrants at Spring Session. If you want to attend a noon-hour event make sure that you arrive early. Because of fire regulations, the University does not allow people to stand.

Welcome Event on Monday, April 29th at 12:00 Noon

The Welcome Event will feature ELLA President John Elliot, an acknowledgment of our long-term members and volunteers, and Edmonton Mayor, Stephen Mandel.

Fragrance-Free Zone

Due to the allergies/sensitivities of many of our members, ELLA respectfully requests that all participants not use perfume or any product with a fragrance, including hand lotion.

Bring-A-Buddy

Know someone who would like a “taste” of Spring Session? Students can once again bring-a-buddy from Monday, May 6th to Wednesday, May 15th. Buddies must be pre-registered in advance for a specific day. There will be a maximum number allowed each day and restrictions for some classes. Please contact the information table during Spring Session for details.

Photographs

ELLA keeps photographic records of Spring Session for our archives and to use in our course guides, newsletters, on our website and for other promotional purposes. If you do not wish to have your photograph taken, please inform the photographer and move out of camera range.

Luncheon

The luncheon is **11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7th** in the 4th floor student lounge, Education North. Luncheon tickets will be sold at the ELLA information table for \$10 until Monday, May 6. This price is subsidized by ELLA for sandwiches, fruit and vegetable trays, desert, coffee and tea.

As a thank you, all volunteers (excluding Board members) will receive a free ticket for the luncheon when they pick up their name tag at the information table. Committee Chairs have provided the names of all ELLA volunteers.

Literary Café

The Literary Café will be on **Wednesday, May 15th at noon** in room N2-115. ELLA members will be reading their own writing – personal essays, poetry and stories. Read more in this newsletter’s article *Calling all ELLA Writers!*

Wind-up Party

The Wind-up Party is **4:30 pm on Wednesday, May 15th** at the Faculty Club. Tickets are \$20 for hors d’oeuvres, fruit punch and cash bar. Buy your ticket from the ELLA information table before Tuesday, May 14th. All instructors have been invited, so come and mingle with your fellow students and your favourite instructors.

Ted Snow Honoured for Contribution to ELLA

Participants at Spring Session over the last three years have benefited from the “behind-the-scenes” leadership, planning, and organization of former ELLA Board member and Chair of the Program Development Committee (2009-12), Ted Snow. Ted was recently recognized for his significant contribution to lifelong learning with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Born and raised in Toronto, Ted moved to Edmonton with his parents in 1966 and graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in economics and statistics. He worked in Ottawa as a Federal Government research economist throughout the 1970s in the consumer, energy conservation and community-based recycling fields.

A few years after returning to Alberta in 1979, Ted was hired to coordinate adult education courses in Westlock. Over 12 years, he started the Westlock and District Adult Learning Centre, partnering

with the Pembina Educational Consortium to bring in credit courses for nursing, social work and high school upgrading. He also introduced a new adult literacy program, and arranged for courses from the Minerva Senior Studies Institute to be delivered in Westlock.

As ELLA’s Program Development Committee Chair for three years, Ted was able to build on the very successful model already established by Marg Stephen, Joyce Buchwald and other ELLA pioneers who were central to getting ELLA on its feet over its first eight years. He recalls that the 2009 Program Committee was responsible for finding instructors, selecting courses, producing the Course Guide, booking classrooms, managing the ELLA website and coordinating many of the activities in the Education Centre during Spring Session. Over the last few years, he has worked at transferring many of those responsibilities to the newly created Communications Committee and Program Implementation Committee.

Ted also documented all Program Development Committee procedures in a comprehensive handbook for the use of future volunteers. ELLA Board members (past and present) and volunteers valued Ted’s attention to detail and ability to see the big picture. Germaine Chau, Chair of Program Implementation, described Ted as “meticulous, and systematic. He’s so conscientious. For the months of April and May, Ted worked full-time for ELLA to ensure everything was perfect for Spring Session. He also documented everything to assist succession.” Glen Walker (ELLA volunteer responsible for audio-visual support for the 2012 and 2013 Spring Sessions) said “Ted’s remarkable attention to detail made taking over A-V easy”.



Ted Snow receiving his Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal from Linda Duncan, MP for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Past President Nancy Rae also shared many examples of Ted's contributions to ELLA. She appreciated his reflectiveness and the work he did to move ELLA to a new level of excellence. "He took some time to think before providing insightful feedback. Ted always considered how new initiatives and procedures would affect the current program. He helped move ELLA forward. When he took over the chairmanship of Program Development, he received a big cardboard box of all materials from previous years. He took the time to develop many templates for letters, lists of tasks, etc. which can be reused with simple modifications each subsequent year. He also realized the importance of setting up subcommittees for A-V, noon hour speakers etc. to spread out the workload. When I think back on it now, it almost consumed his life – all that work and no pay!"

When asked what he most likes about ELLA, Ted responded: "ELLA is an amazing organization, with its strength in member involvement. It's exciting to watch our ever-growing volunteer base build each year's Spring Session from the ground up." While continuing to assist in the work of the Program Development Committee, Ted also enjoys hiking and biking in the river valley, lawn bowling at the Legislative grounds, following Oiler hockey, camping in the mountains, and keeping up with his year-old grandson.

Thank you Ted! The work of ELLA committee chairs and other volunteers is much easier because of your contributions.

Barbara Leung, Chair, Communications Committee.

ELLA Nominated for Lifelong Learning Award

At their annual Lifelong Learning Awards Gala held on March 14th, the Faculty of Extension celebrated the achievements of individuals, groups, and projects that best exemplify the first-class reputation of the University of Alberta. ELLA members were nominated this year in the category of *Lifelong Learning*.

The purpose of the *Lifelong Learning* award is to celebrate a Faculty of Extension learner who demonstrates a commitment to lifelong learning; evidence of individual growth through learning; a contribution to public good; and critical thinking in practice. The nomination is recognition that ELLA members personify these characteristics. ELLA had previously won the award in 2006 for *Excellence in Innovation and Design for Lifelong Learning*.



John Elliot, President and Nancy Rae, Past-President at the Lifelong Learning Awards Gala on March 14, 2013.

Volunteering for ELLA

One of the first things you learn about ELLA is that it is governed and operated entirely by volunteers. Our volunteers contribute a wealth of knowledge and skills as well as many hours of work, and this largely accounts for the remarkable success of ELLA. Now in its 12th year of operation, ELLA offers its Spring Session in partnership with the University of Alberta. What better setting could there be than the “flagship” university in Alberta and indeed, one of North America’s most highly respected universities? This partnership has many benefits including the use of the Education Centre for 3-weeks each spring.

ELLA’s Spring Session is the culmination of a great deal of thinking, planning, and organizing in order to meet the expectations of its members. What is it that entices people to spend three weeks in class at a time when the weather in Edmonton is warming up, primroses and daffodils are blooming, and Spring is about to burst forth? When you pick up your name tag (and information on volunteering) on the first day of Spring Session, you will feel the excitement in the air: the joyful greetings of friends meeting each other again; the new people you meet; the comradeship; the hustle of getting to your first class; the hopes for an interesting time ahead; coffee chats; the picnics inside and out; the rustle of lunch bags, and the chatter as you wait for the noon hour lecture to begin.

Help Wanted!

Are you willing to take on a leadership role? Are you able to volunteer your skills for ELLA?

Do you have a financial background?

ELLA needs Board members, committee chairs, and auditors.

For more information
Telephone 780-492-5055 or
email
exella@ualberta.ca.

As you go about learning, take note of the different volunteer roles of ELLA members. There will be Ambassadors to answer your questions, Course Facilitators assisting the instructors, and A-V Assistants helping with the technology in class. Perhaps you would like to volunteer to serve in one of such capacities this year or next. Or perhaps you would like to serve on a committee, as an auditor, or on the Board of Directors. You will receive handouts describing ELLA committees and a volunteer form. Tell us about your skills and interests, and how you would like to contribute to our work.

We have a Board of Directors up to one third of whom complete their term of office each year, so we will be looking for approximately six Board members. Nominations forms will be available at the information table and must be submitted by 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 8th. A forum to introduce candidates will be held at noon that day.

ELLA has more than 100 volunteers. Altogether they contribute more than 5,000 hours of work per year. For more information contact the ELLA office or go to the website: <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca>. Please think about joining the team – it’s a really worthwhile cause and you won’t regret it.

Judith Hibberd, Chair, Recruitment Committee

Instructor Profile: Meet Earl Choldin

Earl Choldin will share his extensive knowledge and experiences of cultural diversity in the Spring Session 2013 course **Issues in Building a Healthy Multicultural Society**.

Earl has always been surrounded by cultural diversity. His father emigrated from Europe, his mother was first generation American, and he grew up in Chicago, one of the most multicultural cities in the United States. He has lived in India and with a First Nation in Northern Alberta. He feels enriched by this reality; it has created a world for him of variety, intellectual challenge and opportunity.



Earl Choldin wearing his Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal.

The Peace Corps offered him an opportunity to immerse himself in another culture and Earl chose India. It seems India also chose Earl, as a few years later, while teaching at the School for International Training in Vermont, Earl met and married a fellow teacher, originally from Delhi. They have since travelled and worked extensively in India.

With a background in working in community schools in Chicago, Earl was invited to Assumption in northern Alberta, as Director of Education for the Dene 'Tha' First Nation. Chief Harry Chonkalay and Band Manager Harold Cardinal asked Earl to develop a comprehensive school renewal program. This gave Earl the opportunity to use the cross-cultural and social development skills he had developed in Chicago and India. A community

school model was developed that included Dene language and culture curriculum and a Dene community teacher training program.

In Edmonton, Earl has applied his multicultural and organizational skills in a variety of organizations. He directed the Alberta Global Education Project for the Alberta Teacher's Association, providing teachers resources and strategies to help their students become active and engaged global citizens. As director of Learning Network, he arranged teacher and student exchange programs for Alberta schools. As the Global Education Team Leader for the University of Alberta International, he directed International Week; and as the Director of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, he arranged exchanges of scholars and joint research between Canadian and Indian universities.

As a "retired" Edmontonian, Earl is chairing the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation, developing resources for teachers to facilitate student success amongst the South Sudanese, Somali and other communities. He also initiated exchanges between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal classes in partnership with the ATA. His significant

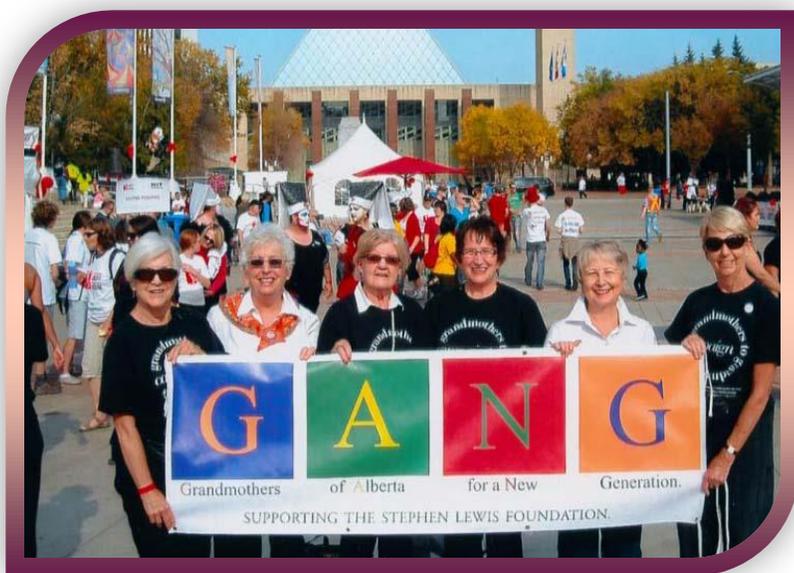
contribution was recently recognized with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which he received at the same ceremony as ELLA's own Ted Snow, and fellow 2013 Spring Session instructor, Michael Phair.

During the ELLA course, Earl is providing the opportunity for students to visit three cultural sites, a Sikh Gurdwara, a Mosque and a Buddhist temple and to enjoy that culture's food at a selected restaurant. Earl is excited to be teaching at ELLA for the first time and engaging participants in discussions about vital issues in building a healthy multicultural Canada.

Liz McCord, Chair, Program Development - Sciences Committee

ELLA Helps “Stir Up” a Book

ELLA members may not be aware of it, but ELLA has been infiltrated by a gang – that's **GANG** – acronym for **Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation**. A group of dynamic “women of a certain age”. The GANG is a chapter of the Stephen Lewis Grandmother to Grandmother Campaign dedicated to raising funds to help African grandmothers who are single-handedly raising their grandchildren (sometimes as many as 20!) who have been left as orphans by the AIDS pandemic.



Some of the GANG members you might see at Spring Session.

A partnership between ELLA and the GANG started in 2010 when Vicki Strang talked about African grandmothers at a noon-hour lecture, and in 2011 Louise Barr and Vicki spoke at another noon-hour lecture about how Stephen Lewis Grandmother groups in Canada were already changing the lives of grandmothers in Africa. For 3 years (and again this year) the GANG has sold beautiful Kazuri jewellery during one noon hour at Spring Session.

As you look around you as you take ELLA courses this spring, you will see many GANG members, cleverly disguised as charming ladies enthusiastically taking ELLA courses. Don't underestimate them! In the last year, a single project involving 100 volunteers has produced a 170 page book that made it onto the Edmonton Journal's Best Books of 2012.

Write a cookbook; no, not just a cookbook, but a book of food memories and stories that are so much a part of childhood. That idea simmered on the back-burner of the GANG for about a year. Then in March 2012, gestation began in earnest. The target was the Christmas market – only nine months away. Could it be done? Well, to a group of experienced women, nine months is plenty of time to produce a miracle. A book should be

a piece of cake! After all, we only had to find 70 contributors, edit it, proofread it, find illustrations, pick a catchy title, design a cover, find sponsors, find a publisher, get it printed, promote it, and sell it in large quantities.

We were so naïve!

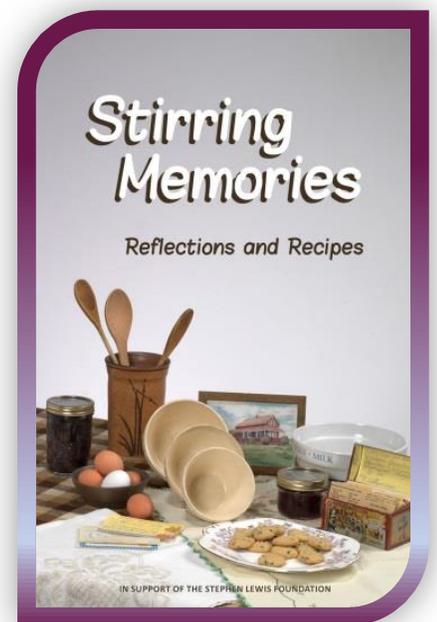
In April, ELLA/GANG member Grace Hamilton had the bright idea to bring the fledgling idea of *Stirring Memories* to ELLA's Spring Session. Debbie Marshall's course, **Writing and Preserving Your Memories**, was a perfect fit! Debbie encouraged Grace to talk about the project, and after just one class, writing inspired by our food memories was flowing from our pens, and we laughed and cried as we listened to our classmates read stories of pie-socials, doctor's maids, and a buffalo stew recipe that starts with how to kill the buffalo! Ten of the entries in *Stirring Memories: Reflections and Recipes* came from that one class! Soon many more ELLA/GANG members were sending in their recipes and stories of grandparents settling on the prairies and their own experiences of immigration to Alberta, including a riotous tale of making hamburgers out of mincemeat!

Another big help from Debbie Marshall's ELLA course was the session with PrintMaster Press which left us slightly overwhelmed with dizzying decisions of paper size, paper type, font styles, binding type, pixels, proofreading and publicity. However, at least one problem was solved – we knew who to go to when (if??) we got to the printing stage!

By the end September, 83 promising chapters were in-hand, including ones from Premier Alison Redford, MP Linda Duncan and MLA Jacquie Fenske, Journal columnist Liane Faulder, and Order of Canada recipient Jean Pare. Of the 77 authors, about half were ELLA alumnae, and included an impressive number of published writers including Jean Crozier who is instructing **Finding the Unique in Your Family's Story** this year. A small but dynamic team of GANG/ELLA members led by Jannie Edwards swooped in to edit and proofread, a cover was designed by committee, and we were done!

On November 24 *Stirring Memories: Reflections and Recipes* was launched with readings, laughter, and cookies and cakes made from the recipes in the book. In one evening we sold 300 books! A second printing of 300 was ordered. GANG/ELLA members Joan Knesh and Dianne Linden appeared on CTV to make Croissant Bread Pudding, and 250 more copies have been ordered to meet continuing demand. All proceeds (now over \$10,000) are going to help African grandmothers.

If you are interested in reading stories by your fellow ELLA members and trying out some tasty recipes, the GANG will be selling *Stirring Memories: Reflections and Recipes* at their May 9th noon-hour Kazuri jewellery sale or check out the [GANG website](#) to order a copy. Or ask that innocent-looking lady beside you in an ELLA class – she could be a GANG member!



Jan McGregor, Volunteer, Communications Committee and GANG Member



Join facilitator Jan McGregor at the Café.

Calling all ELLA Writers!

All ELLA members are invited to showcase their writing at Spring Session's Literary Café on Wednesday May 15th at noon in room N2-115. Maximum time per reader is 5 minutes. Writers must sign up early at the information table during Spring Session as time is limited.

Please come to the Literary Café to enjoy talented ELLA members reading their own writing – personal essays, poetry, and stories!

ELLA's Winning Photographer!

If you've admired many of the photographs that we used in ELLA's November 2012 newsletter and the Spring Session 2013 Course Guide, it's thanks to the talents of ELLA participant Cecilia Mullikin.

Cecilia discovered ELLA through her two sisters who live in Edmonton. After retiring, Cecilia travelled from New Jersey to Edmonton in 2011 and 2012 to participate in ELLA's Spring Session.

New to photography, Cecilia signed up for ELLA's **Digital Photography** course and throughout Spring Session 2012 she practised her new skills taking photos as ELLA's unofficial photographer. Cecilia said "I had a lot of fun in Mr. Lamb's class, and I think somehow it has brought out the artistic side of me." (This year Bob Lamb returns to teach **Digital Photography for Compact Cameras**.)



Cecilia Mullikin at Spring Session 2012.



Cecilia Mullikin's photograph was published in the book *Summer of 2012 Berkley*.

ELLA's Communications Committee appreciated Cecilia's photographs, and it wasn't a surprise that Cecilia's talents were recognized by others. She entered three photographs in the Holiday City at Berkeley Camera Club Photo Contest, and one of her photos was selected! Her winning photograph was published in a limited edition book *Summer of 2012 Berkley*.

If you see Cecilia during Spring Session, congratulate her on her winning photo, thank her for the great photos she took for ELLA - and smile for her camera!

Information Centre

ELLA Board 2012 – 2013

<i>President:</i>	John Elliot	<i>Program Development</i>	
<i>Past President:</i>	Nancy Rae	<i>Fine Arts:</i>	Dawna Dey-Harrish
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Anna Luk	<i>Humanities:</i>	Jill Swann-Lussier
<i>Secretary:</i>	Charles Toth	<i>Sciences:</i>	Liz McCord
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Ruth Merriott	<i>Program</i>	Germaine Chau &
		<i>Implementation:</i>	Colleen Burton-Ochocki
		<i>Publicity:</i>	Jeanna Baty
		<i>Recruitment:</i>	Judith Hibberd
		<i>Social:</i>	Mary Fung
Committee Chairpersons			
<i>Administration:</i>	Faith Fernalld		
<i>Bylaws & Policies:</i>	Nga de la Cruz		
<i>Communications:</i>	Barbara Leung		
<i>Finance:</i>	Ruth Merriott		

How to Contact ELLA

Phone:	(780) 492-5055. <i>Please leave a message; calls will be answered year round.</i>
Email:	exella@ualberta.ca
Visit or Write:	Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA) University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension Suite 2-936B, 10230 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4P6.
Office Hours:	<p>Mid-April – April 26, 2013 Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. April 29, 2013 – September 30, 2013 Office closed during spring session and over the summer*</p> <p>Please telephone or check the website for fall and winter office hours.</p> <p><i>Our office is run entirely by volunteers. 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 14, 2013
From 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to order: 12:00 p.m.

Welcome to the AGM: by the President John Elliot

1. **Adoption of Agenda**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Previous AGM – Tuesday, May 15, 2012
3. **Reports of Officers:**
 - President: John Elliot
 - Treasurer: Ruth Merriott
4. **Audit Committee:**
 - Motion - Acceptance of the Auditors' Report and Audited Statement 2012
 - Motion - Appointment of Auditor(s) for 2013-2014
5. **Other Committee Reports:**
 - Committee Chairs
6. **Introduction of Candidates for the Board of Directors:**
 - Chair Recruitment Committee: Judith Hibberd
7. **Election of Directors:**
 - Motion – Acceptance of the Slate of Directors
8. **New Business:**
9. **Closing Remarks:** President John Elliot

The minutes of the 2012 AGM, Reports of Committees for 2012-13 can be viewed and downloaded from our website:

http://web.extension.ualberta.ca/extcms/index.php/ella/annual_general_meetings
or requested by contacting the ELLA office.

- Please review Reports prior to the meeting. This will allow more time to be devoted to discussion, the introduction of candidates for the Board and responding to any questions.
- A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting and at the ELLA information table during Spring Session.