



A LITTLE ELDERCOLLEGE CHINWAG

by Lloyd Brown-John, Founder and Director of Canterbury ElderCollege

As we launch our 17th Semester of ElderCollege I want to take a few moments of your time to indulge in some appreciation and to make a modest plea.

ElderCollege depends entirely upon volunteers. Volunteers find and develop courses and volunteers manage courses and some very special volunteer bakes wonderful goodies for courses.

We are always in need of volunteers and especially those willing to develop a course.

ElderCollege is also blessed with some remarkable staff housed at our World Headquarters at Canterbury College on the campus of the University of Windsor. Catherine Fettes our ElderCollege Programme Manager and Laura Macmillan our ElderCollege Programme Coordinator are truly two of the most resourceful and capable people with whom it has been my privilege to work.

I need also add Shelly Bolger Canterbury College General Manager and one of the finest grant application writers I have ever met. And, we most assuredly need grants to allow ElderCollege both to continue and to offer some unique courses.

For example, this coming Autumn semester and next Spring's semester will see a total of 4 courses especially designed to involve veterans. These courses are our commitment to recognize Canada's veterans and to thank Veteran's Affairs Canada for financial support for these courses.

Perhaps the biggest challenge our Curriculum Committees Chairs have is literally "beating the hedges" for courses both new and, when feasible, repeats of popular courses.

Our three Curriculum Committee Chairs, Anne Gooch (Chatham-Kent), Jim McTavish (Essex County) and Marylou Ouellette (Windsor-LaSalle-Tecumseh -Lakeshore) have devoted numerous hours to meetings and urgings for persons with a talent, skill or a profession that they might be willing to share with

ElderCollege as a developed course. Marylou Ouellette also serves ElderCollege as our representative on Canterbury College's Board of Directors.

Many of you will already have had an opportunity to look over our Autumn 2019 semester courses as they were posted online in advance of publication of the course catalogue. There are some interesting courses ranging from my Spanish Flu course to Charles Bain's course on Resistance to the Nazis. I will have a minor role in that course as I have, in German, a 39 page account written in 1943 by one of the most astounding persons I've ever met about her time in a Nazi prison and how she ended up, deported, in Denmark. With Charles' permission I will share for the very first time the contents of this unusual historic document.

We are also very pleased to have a most respected dermatologist, Dr. Jerry Tan, as our Autumn 2019 Distinguished Speaker. Facing the question, "what has happened to my aging skin?" Dr Tan will offer answers and explanations.

ElderCollege has been a wonderful experience for both myself and my wife Marilyn. Yet, as we approach our personal "four score" years we need to think about ElderCollege's future. We need to encourage some of those "over 55" youngsters to become involved to become involved and to help develop courses.

ElderCollege will always need volunteers and thus, to all who are offering courses this semester or managing a course, from the deepest recesses of my emotional heart, I thank all of you.

Collectively we have achieved an enormous amount these past nine years for our "aged 55 and better" community. Please think about ways you can help, support or otherwise contribute to the continuation of what I often refer to as that moment when I said "Hey Gordon Drake, have I got an interesting idea for you and Canterbury..."

Regards,

LB**J**