

Spring 2019

Greetings to all our SCANS members,

As you read this newsletter, many of you will have started Spring term classes. We trust these are going well for you. The courses offerings have been very appealing to so many of our existing members, and certainly were a draw for new members to the Seniors' College. We welcome the 47 new members who joined this Spring, and look forward to your continued participation.

Much has happened over the past few months. Our winter term was very successful, both in terms of the number of members who took courses and in the feedback provided at the end of the term. We also were very pleased with the results of our community outreach initiative with the Lower Sackville Library. Approximately 90 participants, both SCANS members and library patrons, attended Spy School 101 held next door to the library at Acadia Hall. Our Public Lectures have also continued to draw a large audience. Most importantly, our membership keeps growing which tells us that we are doing things right! It seems that you think so too since we know that word of mouth from you, our members, helps grow our organization. Thank you for all of the great work.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on March 9. The meeting was well attended, and members were very pleased as they listened to reports from the President, Curriculum Committee and Publicity Chairs and the Treasurer's financial report and budget for the next year. All reports indicated a very successful year for us, and we are well poised for continued success in the next year. We said good bye and thanked outgoing Board members Valerie Latus, Shirley Lee and Heather MacMillan, and welcomed new Board members Peter Glenister, Marcos Zentilli, Carol MacAskill and Linda Rand.

The Annual General Meeting was also a celebration of our volunteers, all of whom contribute to the success of the Seniors' College: our dedicated Board and Curriculum Committee members, Class Managers, Hospitality Committee and of course, our devoted Instructors. We also honored longtime volunteer extraordinaire Johan Geldenhuis with a Life Membership. He accepted the honor with a very warm and humorous response, once again endearing himself to all of us. A lovely reception followed the meeting, and we all enjoyed the wonderful guitar playing provided by Vladimir Sitnikov.

The Board secured the services of a law firm experienced in drafting Anti-Harassment policies for non-profit organizations to draft such a policy for the Seniors' College. The Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures was approved by the Board at our meeting on April 15, and is now posted on our website under Resources, then Documents. All volunteers will receive training on the policy in the next few months.

We want to remind everyone that we do have Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on our website. There are questions and answers posted there pertaining to questions many members may have, but don't know who to ask. Of course, if you have questions that aren't answered there, you are free to contact our Office Manager, Sue Hawkes, who will help you or direct you to the appropriate person who can answer your question.

We encourage you to check the website regularly as we post information about public lectures and any new information that concerns our members, including information about any of our instructors who are in the news. Indeed, if you know of any lectures, book signings or the like being offered elsewhere by one of our instructors, or know of any instructors being honored by a university or by another organization, please let us know and we will be pleased to post it.

Finally, as you know, we seek and welcome new volunteers on an ongoing basis. If you are interested in helping out by serving in any our volunteer positions, or as a class manager, please contact Sue Hawkes. She will forward your information to our Volunteer Coordinator Donna Meagher-Stewart who will be pleased to follow up with you.

Enjoy your courses, and please don't forget that receiving your feedback promptly at the end of each course is of utmost importance to both our faculty coordinators and to our instructors in the planning for and preparation of future courses.

Have a wonderful summer everyone, and please check us out in August for news about the fall information and registration sessions and class schedule.

Lois Block  
President, SCANS Board of Directors