

Spring 2020

Dear Seniors' College Members,

In our last newsletter we promised to keep you informed on plans for how we might proceed with the delivery of courses. The Board met again on May 20, and after an update by Curriculum Committee Chair Anne Chisholm, and a presentation by Bob Russell, a member of the tech team, the following decisions were made:

- 1). In all likelihood, given the social distancing restrictions, we will not be able to hold classes as usual in the fall of 2020. Therefore, we should continue to work on the presentation of virtual classes to Seniors' College members.
- 2). Members of the Curriculum Committee will continue their work on finding the right format for presenting courses virtually, and finding instructors who are willing and able to present classes in that chosen format.

I am happy to report that much progress has been made since then. Members of the tech team, Bill Li, Bob Russell and John Stewart have explored many options and have found Zoom to be the appropriate format for us. Zoom is a widely used video conferencing application. It allows you to interact with others if in-person classes are not possible and enables you to feel more connected. The team will be running tests on this application in the next two weeks.

Tony Schellinck has kindly agreed to offer a special lecture which will be held via Zoom and presented to all our members, following the tests. This special lecture will be held later this month. You will be receiving an announcement by email, and the announcement will also be posted on our website. You will also receive instructions on how to watch the lecture on Zoom. Your feedback following the lecture will be very important to us so that necessary changes can be made and we will be ready for the presentation of classes in the fall term.

Members of the Curriculum Committee, and in particular HRM Faculty Coordinators Joan Hicks and Jocelyne Hellou, and Mahone Bay Chapter Chair Fern Jordan, have been and continue to be actively engaged in finding instructors/courses for the fall term. Together with the tech team they have been working long and hard in planning for how we can proceed since the announcement of the cancellation of classes in the spring. We are very appreciative of all their efforts.

We are moving in uncharted waters in these difficult times. There are many challenges and many complexities as we move toward the virtual presentation of courses. We have asked Sue Hawkes, our Office Manager and an experienced Project Manager, to manage and coordinate all the efforts and tasks performed by members of the Curriculum Committee. This will ensure a timely result and our readiness for the fall.

As you probably know from what you may have already watched virtually, or heard from others, the virtual world is not a perfect one. Things happen despite everyone's best efforts. We ask for your patience as we move forward, and count on your continued support.

Best wishes, and please stay safe,  
Lois, on behalf of the Seniors' College Board of Directors

As promised, see below for Reading and Viewing suggestions from our members

Barbara

- Richard Burton (and cast) reading [Dylan Thomas' Under Milk Wood](#)
- [Catch Me If You Can](#)

From Norm Pinsky – Reading Suggestions

Barbara Kingsolver

- The Poisonwood Bible
- Prodigal Summer
- The Lacuna

From Dave

I came across a lecture on YouTube called "1177 BC: The Year that Civilization Collapsed" that greatly impressed me on history from Integration of archeology and use of pollen paleontology botany lectures relate me too), along with early written histories. We had looked at art from that time with Dee Appleby as well, all merging into personal past readings. This fits well as a reminder of our vulnerability aside from that man-made. I did wonder how many lectures are available already that we may be directed to. The AGS has now gone that route with online geology lectures. Yuval Harari's Sapiens was a recent read of interest as well for variety of perspectives. I have some rock fossils dating back to 500MY plus, so his time coverage is comparably recent, effectively a Glacial Era up to 15,000 years back in our region and greater Canada.

From Anonymous

If anyone wants an ideal author to read in these troubled times, they should try anything by P.G. Wodehouse (Jeeves and Bertie Wooster are my favorite characters of his). Keep well and safe and, as Queen Elizabeth said in her recent broadcast "we will meet again".