

2022-23 CVEC EXECUTIVE

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Executive Message

By Gary Priestman

Co-Chair, Volunteer Support Committee

As I was walking across campus for my class, I thought about the upcoming CVEC 25th anniversary in 2024. This led me to reflect upon the first 24 years of the partnership between CVEC and North Island College (NIC). As CVEC members, we have enjoyed many benefits.

First among these is access to such a beautiful academic setting. The architecture complements the natural beauty of the campus. This year we also witnessed the clearing of the land for the impressive residential complex. In addition, we have well-equipped classrooms, the use of the Stan Hagen theatre, the cafeteria and the Learning Commons (i.e. library). From the tots at the Beaufort Children's Centre, to our CVEC members and all the students in between, the Comox Valley campus is truly a community of life-long learners.

Second is the administrative support that we receive from the staff and senior management of NIC. They provide registration services, financial services, the scheduling of courses as well as the assignment of classrooms. NIC also provides the part-time services of a liaison who acts a conduit between CVEC and NIC.

Third, NIC provides a gathering spot for socializing. Zoom classes helped CVEC to stay operational throughout the pandemic and continue to be beneficial where the instructor or the lecture presenter is in a remote location; however, they could not provide the opportunities for socializing that on-campus courses did. For many of our members, socializing is a prime motivator. Our instructors also welcome the in-person interaction with their participants.

Aside from appreciating all that NIC offers CVEC members, we can also take pride in what we give back. First and foremost are the three bursaries that are awarded yearly to NIC students. Two of the bursaries are named for our two founders, Elizabeth Smith and Betty Emery. The third bursary was established in 2019 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of CVEC.

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Over the years, CVEC has underwritten a number of physical upgrades to the Stan Hagen Theatre. The first of these was the installation of railings for the stairs. More recently, CVEC has provided an upgrade to the theatre's audio system.

NIC also benefits financially as 50% of CVEC revenues are provided as payment for the services that NIC provides. NIC's funding from the BC Government is based on full time equivalents (number of bodies in the seats) and CVEC members contribute to NIC's total count.

From a humble beginning where the first semester saw an offering of four classes and a CVEC membership of 100, CVEC now boasts a membership of nearly 1,000 and a course offering exceeding 50 courses. Certainly, much of CVEC's success can be attributed to its many selfless volunteers; however, we have to credit the symbiotic partnership with NIC as being a very important contributing factor.

Volunteer Opportunities

Operations Support Needs You!

CVEC is looking for volunteers to join the Operations Support Committee. This committee's mandate is to ensure that all CVEC members, volunteers and committees follow both North Island College's regulations and CVEC's governance manual. In addition, this committee periodically initiates reviews of the bylaws within the governance manual and incorporates any approved changes.

If you are a person who enjoys working with policy documentation, please go to the Comox Valley ElderCollege page on the North Island College website and complete the [*Volunteer Information form*](#).

Legacy Planning – Looking forward, giving back

Legacy gift planning allows you to support what you care about most and advance positive change in your community.

Leaving a planned gift also forms a part of an overall financial plan that can provide individuals – at any level of wealth – with significant benefits. For example, planned gifts can help you maintain control of your assets during your lifetime, take advantage of a number of tax benefits, leave a legacy for North Island College students, and possibly even provide income to yourself or others during your or their lifetime.

Designating a gift in your will to the NIC Foundation will have an enormous and lasting impact on students and communities for generations to come. North Island College graduates enrich our communities with professional skills that are in demand. They become our nurses, engineers, carpenters, social workers and business owners. They grow here, raise families here and invest here.

After consulting with your family and your professional advisor about the type of legacy gift that best suits you and your estate plan, you can connect with us to help you direct your gift to a specific area or purpose. Maybe there is a program or field of study near and dear to your heart. Or perhaps you wish to pay forward the help that you once received from others.

If you have already decided to leave a gift to the NIC Foundation in your will, please let us know so that we can ensure we are clear about your intentions and your vision for the gift. We would also like to thank you and recognize you for your generosity and commitment to future students and education. Please contact Erin Petersen in confidence, at 250-334-5000 (ext 4267).

A Year in Review

CVEC Course Photo Montage



Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

By Barbara Bruederlin
Communications Committee

The selfless dedication of CVEC volunteers was lauded and applauded on April 19, when members filled the Comox Golf Course clubhouse for the much-anticipated annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Outside, a cool rain pelted the fairways, but inside the restaurant the atmosphere was warm and festive.

Tastefully decorated tables featured fresh flowers and a thoughtfully curated swag bag at each place setting. Soup, salad, and an assortment of sandwiches and tempting desserts lined the buffet table. As folks mingled and caught up with friends, a backdrop of streaming photos of CVEC events throughout the years demonstrated just how little everyone had aged.

While attendees settled in to nosh, Volunteer Support Co-Chair Gary Priestman welcomed the gathering with ice-breaker games and the charming tale of a wayward feline returned home. Executive Chair John North shared the happy news that CVEC membership had all but returned to pre-COVID numbers (currently standing

at 975, up from 600 during the height of the pandemic).

Later, while diners deliberated over whether to go back for another Nanaimo bar, North Island College President Lisa Domae drew tickets for door prizes, which were generously dispersed and much coveted.

Despite the good-natured revelry that ensued, it's unclear which table actually took home the lion's share of door prizes. A moving musical recital finished the festivities, with a performance of voices and harp by Mystic Valley Voices. Led by long-time CVEC instructor Oliver Clarke - who teaches Universal Devotional Chanting - the group performed a Buddhist harsutra, a Seneca chant to Mother Moon, and a Christian refrain from a New Hampshire abbey.

As the afternoon drew to a close and attendees bid adieu to long-time friends and new acquaintances (and were offered ElderCollege branded Hot Chocolates bars on their way out!), they headed home feeling invigorated, inspired and very much appreciated.



Fall 2023 Course Preview

A Sneak Peak

No more pencils; no more books! ElderCollege classes are on a break, but we're hard at work behind the scenes getting ready for fall. Following is a selection of courses we have lined up for our next term.

Car Care

(3 weeks on campus)

Instructor: Donald Skogstad



Drawing on his extensive experience with over 100 cars, comprising 20 manufacturers, eight on-road breakdowns, and

several upgrade projects, Don will take you from one end of the vehicle to the other and guide you from headlights to exhaust systems. This course will help in purchasing, maintaining, or upgrading a car. It's part physics, part automotive mechanics, and part YouTube with anecdotes from Don's considerable experience gained over the years.

Evidence of Life After Death

(6 weeks on campus)

Instructor: Phyllis Chubb

The results from the revival of large numbers of heart and surgical patients have been a driving force in life-after-death research. Where have ideas about death originated? What are some explanations for death? How can death be understood? Why is doubt arising? What does current research tell us?

To answer these questions, the effect of alternative world views will be presented.



From Script to Screen

(4 weeks on campus)

Instructor: Larry Bambrick

Take a visual trip with a TV producer and explore the fascinating world of scripted television shows. Using real-life examples from shows he's worked on from CTV to the Hallmark Channel, the instructor will help participants understand exactly how an idea for a show becomes the episode you watch at home. From writing and casting to shooting and editing, you will learn to look at your favourite show in a new way.

What is Scientific Literacy?

(4 weeks on campus)

Instructor: Roderick Montague

This is NOT primarily a science course where a large body of scientific information gets presented. The aim, rather, is to provide the tools needed for understanding and evaluating the scientific information we encounter each day. In essence, it is answering the question, "Should I trust what I am being told or am I being sold snake oil?"



The Wild World of Ceremonies

(1 week online)

Instructors: Dianne Volrich and Roland Semjanovs

Join Dianne and Roland for an eye-popping look at unusual or little-known cultural practices around the world. Rites of marriage, coming of age, the seasonal celebrations of many cultural groups, and superstitions. It's a colourful and sometimes shocking look at traditions that are centuries old, including some ceremonies the presenters find hilarious.

Important Dates

May 13

You are invited to attend our upcoming AGM beginning at 10:00 am. Stan Hagen doors open at 9:30 am or login to Zoom between 9:45 am and 10:00 am.

May 14

Mother’s Day

June 18

Father’s Day

June 21

Summer Solstice

July 1

Canada Day Parade March, marshalling at 9:30 am. Join the fun and strut your stuff as we march to highlight ElderCollege. More information to follow.



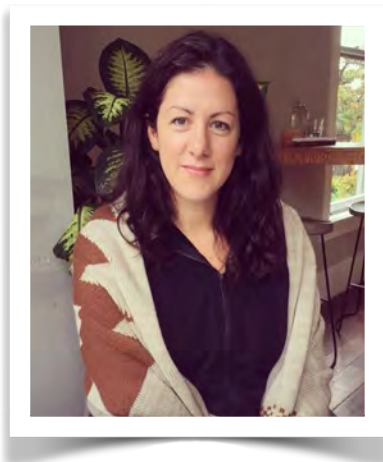
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@ComoxValleyElderCollege

ElderCollege is active on Facebook. **Follow** us, **Like** us, and **Share** posts. Help us get the word out about upcoming events, course announcements and opportunities for diverse, vibrant and affordable education for adults 55+.

Welcome Miriam Miller

I recently joined the Continuing Education Department at North Island College in the role of liaison to the Comox Valley ElderCollege. Some of you may recognize my name from when I was helping orient people with their login credentials for registration (phew!), prior to, and then on registration day. It is absolutely my pleasure to have this role, and I brag about ElderCollege in the community all the time - what a wonderful community within a community that it creates for our 55+ residents. I have enjoyed chatting with ElderCollege members, instructors and volunteers and working with the executive committee as I learn the many facets of my job. I appreciate the patience and the kindness that I have been shown. I have received kind emails, had people make me laugh and I really enjoy coming to work.



I am from Victoria but I lived here in the Valley 15 years ago when I met my husband. At that time I had worked for a year at NIC and then we both moved to Victoria. Well, we couldn't stay away and so we moved back last year with our two girls, ages 11 and 13, and we bought a 1965 house in Courtenay and completely renovated it. We love the pace of life in the Comox Valley and love tubing down the river, swimming in all the amazing swim spots and hiking the trails. I hope to see any and all of you out and about as the weather warms up and we all start enjoying this beautiful island we call home.

I am also looking forward to the many semesters ahead of us of quality education in many forms and categories through ElderCollege.

Summer Musings

