



COMOX VALLEY

## *ElderCollege Connector*

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

### *Greetings*

By now you may have registered for a course or two and maybe even attended your first online class and met some new classmates. In this issue of the Connector, you will meet two volunteers from the Curriculum Committee, Roger Taylor and Terry Hooper. These two have been instrumental in bringing ElderCollege into the digital times, enabling us to continue to offer a full array of courses and lectures.

Roger co-chairs the Curriculum Committee with Sheila Borman, but he will turn this position over to Terry in the new year. Roger hosted the London lecture series earlier this year and will also host the upcoming fall lecture series.

Terry will take over Roger's co-chair duties in January with Sheila, and he will continue to offer his vast IT experience to keep things running smoothly. He will also offer another computer course.

Research has shown that participating in stimulating mental activities helps us be more engaged, be less likely to be depressed, and have a slower decline in cognitive function. So, if you're happy and you know it, you're likely attending ElderCollege!

Another way to be engaged and involved in fun and stimulating activities is to volunteer with ElderCollege. Volunteer Coordinator Kate Clark tells you how below!

Michael Bergob, Co-Chair  
Communications Committee

### *Why Volunteer For ElderCollege?*

By Kate Clark

Thank you to all those who have stepped up over the spring and summer to help plan and execute the programs for the fall and winter sessions of this academic year, particularly those who have taken on

[www.nic.bc.ca/CVEC](http://www.nic.bc.ca/CVEC)

[eldercollegeCV@nic.bc.ca](mailto:eldercollegeCV@nic.bc.ca)

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leadership positions. We have added a co-chair to the Communications Committee and have recruited a chair for Member Support. Our August Connector article resulted in a member stepping up to serve on the Operations Support Committee, but she was the only person to respond. Hmm... don't be shy!

We continue to require a volunteer appreciation event planner on the Volunteer Support Committee, and the Operations Support Committee could use additional members to help review and draft policy. In addition, we have had a resignation from the Curriculum Committee and require someone to take on the role of the health and wellness subject coordinator.

Please consider:

- Contributing to an organization that is a centre of excellence in the delivery of life-long learning.
- Helping to sustain a program that enriches many lives within our community.
- Increasing personal satisfaction through interaction with your peers.
- Contributing your special skills and interests and acquiring new ones.
- Bringing a lifetime of wisdom and experience to our organization.



For more information on any of the above vacancies, contact [clarkkate989@gmail.com](mailto:clarkkate989@gmail.com) or go to [cvec.volunteers@nic.bc.ca](mailto:cvec.volunteers@nic.bc.ca) to request a volunteer form.

## *New Registration Process*

North Island College has updated its registration system, which means we too have changed the way people register for courses. We apologize for any frustration this may have caused.

Here's a quick tutorial....

[www.nic.bc.ca/CVEC](http://www.nic.bc.ca/CVEC)

[eldercollegeCV@nic.bc.ca](mailto:eldercollegeCV@nic.bc.ca)

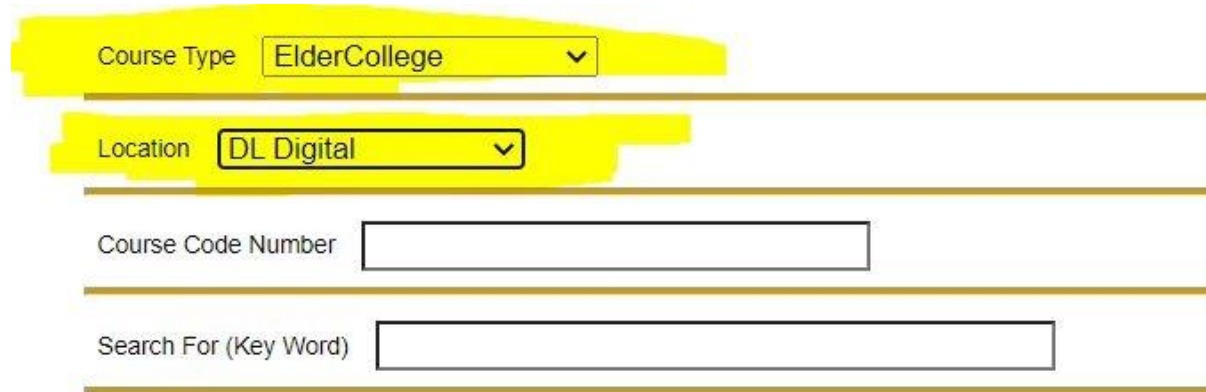
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Step 1: If you are a *returning* student, make sure you have your student number handy (i.e., the ‘n999999’ number). If you are a *new* student, a student number will be assigned after you register.

Step 2: If you are a returning student, make sure you have your password handy. (If you don’t remember it, see the instructions below.)

**Step 3: When registering, make sure to select “ElderCollege” for course type and “DL Digital” for location.**



The image shows a registration form with four fields. The first two fields are dropdown menus, and the last two are text input boxes. The first field is labeled 'Course Type' and has 'ElderCollege' selected. The second field is labeled 'Location' and has 'DL Digital' selected. The third field is labeled 'Course Code Number' and is empty. The fourth field is labeled 'Search For (Key Word)' and is empty. The first two fields are highlighted in yellow.

### Forgot your password?

1. Go to the [NIC Connect](#) page.
2. Select the “reset it” weblink on the left side of the page.
3. Type in your username (this is your student number, i.e., ‘n999999’) and your last name in the proper field.
4. Check your email for a reset password.
5. Login to [NIC Connect](#) using your reset password.

## *Fall Courses Update*

Courses are set to re-Zoom this month and ElderCollege members have again appeared eager to learn. Despite added capacity, many sessions filled up quickly. Here are some of the classes that (at the time of writing) still had space.... Register [here!](#)

**Knights and Needlework**

Duration: 4 weeks

Instructor: Alana Gowdy

It has been said that there is only one aspect of the Battle of Hastings on which historians agree—the Normans won! At some point after this undisputed victory, an embroidery known as the Bayeux Tapestry was created. This course will provide a background to England before and during 1066. It will then delve into the mystery and adventure surrounding the making and survival of the Bayeux Tapestry.

**Magic Music Box**

Duration: 4 weeks

Instructor: Judi Murakami

Each of the four sessions will feature in-depth interviews, performances, musical tips and interactive discussions with some of the best musicians from the Comox Valley. The genres will include blues, jazz, and contemporary, to name a few. Sit back and enjoy or mix it up and talk to the performers.

**Doughnut Economics and Wellbeing**

Duration: 1 week

Instructor: Trevor Hancock

Our current economic system is arguably the greatest threat to human health and societal stability we face, generating massive inequality while devastating the environment. The instructor will provide some background on this threat to our wellbeing and discuss new directions we need to pursue, with a particular focus on the concept of doughnut economics, a new model related to concepts such as a wellbeing economy and a steady state economy.

**Biofilia: Our Connection to Nature**

Duration: 8 weeks

Instructor: Thierry Vrain

Is nature intelligent? How closely related are we to other living species? Molecular biology is allowing us a peek at molecules at work in living cells, revealing that all cells function with the same protein molecules and genetic code, and the same molecules that energize all organisms. Come and learn the importance of bacteria, plants, animals, and humans in the natural systems and cycles of the biosphere. A non-technical course.

## *Fall Lecture Series*

There are still some spaces available in our fall lecture series: The Fourth Border, coordinated by Dr. Betty Donaldson. The series provides snapshots of life along the 49th parallel, the world's longest undefended border. Register [here](#).

**Dividing Lines: The Impact of Borders On Indigenous People**

Saturday, Oct. 2 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9001-DLS1

The borders we recognize today separating countries, provinces, and communities are all colonial constructs that did not exist prior to European contact. Recently, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled against the Province of British Columbia in a case involving a Sinixt hunter from the Kootenays. This is just one example of the impact of the dividing lines imposed on Indigenous people. Adam will share his experience in the W\_SÁNEC territory.



Instructor:  
MLA Adam Olsen

**Canada, China & The United States: The Unsettled Triangle**

Saturday, Oct 16 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9002-DLS1

As an emergent superpower, China has influenced our traditional "best friends" relationship. Three individuals symbolize this imbalanced triangle of power, interest and perception: the two Michaels and Meng Wanzhou. The Biden administration may produce a partial reset, but can Canada navigate a US-China strategic competition and make decisions based on its own values and interests? What should be done in the area of technology including Huawei and our 5G networks?



Instructor:  
Dr. Paul Evans

**Is Point Roberts American or Canadian?**

Saturday, Oct 23 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9003-DLS1

Point Roberts, Washington is a border anomaly: part of the USA because it is below the 49th parallel. This five-square-mile peninsula attached to Delta, B.C. has 1,100 permanent residents, mainly Canadians who own 75 per cent of the land. All potable water and electricity are supplied by British Columbia. The local economy is 90 per cent dependent on Canadian support. It is time to review the entire governance.



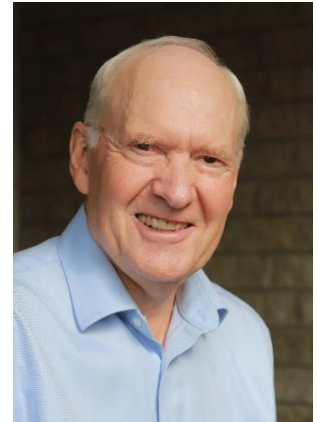
Instructor: Brian Calder

**CANADA-USA Governance: Common Roots/Different Practices**

Saturday, Oct. 30 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9004-DLS1

In this lecture we will look at the development of the governmental structures of Canada and the USA from their common roots in Great Britain to present practices. We will have an opportunity to look at particular events in our shared history to illustrate where co-operation or tension existed. The course material will include portraits, photos, and political cartoons of the period to illustrate the issues.



Instructor: Don Axtell

**Water, Reconciliation and Our Common Future**

Saturday, Nov. 6 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9005-DLS1

We often hear "water is life" but what does that mean in the face of climate change, our history of colonisation, and our relationships within Canada and across the border? These are diverse but connected issues. From a strong background in environmental issues and her work with the International Joint Commission, Merrell-Ann will discuss how water ethics are a critical underpinning to a secure water future.

Instructor:  
Merrell-Ann Phare

**The RCMP - Still Defending the Border**

Saturday, Nov. 13 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9006-DLS1  
Instructor: RCMP  
Superintendent  
Vince Foy

The historic mission of the RCMP was to maintain order and security along the 49th parallel. Vince Foy will focus on its federal priorities pertaining to border security, such as the Integrated Border Enforcement Team, ShipRider (Integrated Cross Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations), and the US-led Border Enforcement Security Task Force. In addition, they work with other security agencies such as the Armed Services, Canadian Border Security Agency, and CSIS.

**What Are You Watching Now?  
The Push for Motion Picture Content**

Saturday, Nov 20 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9007-DLS1

Vancouver is Canada's largest, and North America's third largest, movie and TV production "hot spot." Each province supports agencies for business attraction, grants, production, and policy services to maximize mutual benefits for businesses, productions, and hosting communities. Cross-border supports include work permits, locations, logistics, supply company advice, and tax credits for this segment of the creative economy. We learn of B.C.'s remarkable growth and industry changes over this last decade.



Instructor:  
Julie Stangeland

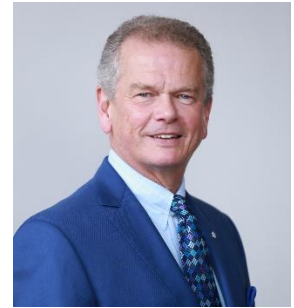


**The Canadian and USA Health Care Systems: A Senior's Perspective**

Saturday, Nov. 27 10 am – 12 noon

CVEC-9008-DLS1

North American healthcare systems are either tax funded (Canada: social) or a market model (the US). Who is included and what one gets is determined by who funds and delivers the systems; therefore, outcomes vary. The most expensive care does not necessarily mean the best quality. Dr. Noseworthy compares both systems, followed by a Q&A hosted by Ottawa-based based journalist and Parliamentary Press Gallery member Chris Guly.



Instructor:  
Dr. Tom Noseworthy

*Getting to Know You (Part 1): Roger Taylor*



One of our long-time volunteers, Roger Taylor is the co-chair of the Curriculum Committee and recognizes the challenges of offering first-class courses to our membership. He notes that his job “has been made relatively easy by the hard working and imaginative efforts of all my volunteer colleagues on each of the standing committees and by the ElderCollege executive team.”

Originally from the small farming village of Warboys in Cambridgeshire in the UK, Roger notes that the village’s claim to fame is being included in the Domesday Book (pronounced “Doomsday”) of 1086 which was the result of a “Great Survey” commissioned by William the Conqueror. Roger’s early claim to fame was working on a farm inside the Norwegian Arctic Circle where he managed to lose a whole herd of cows! Thankfully all cows were accounted for by the end of day.

Following a successful career in the IT department of a very large international company, Roger (and his wife) emigrated to Canada in 1996. They settled in Calgary where they both spent the remainder of their working lives. Roger remained employed in IT, for telephone companies and businesses associated with the oil and gas industry.



Roger and his wife moved to Courtenay a year after his retirement in 2017, and then to Comox where he enjoys photography and is a member of the Comox Valley Photographic Society. Books on modern history are a favourite of his as are any works (fiction or nonfiction) related to the Cold War and the resulting world of espionage it generated.

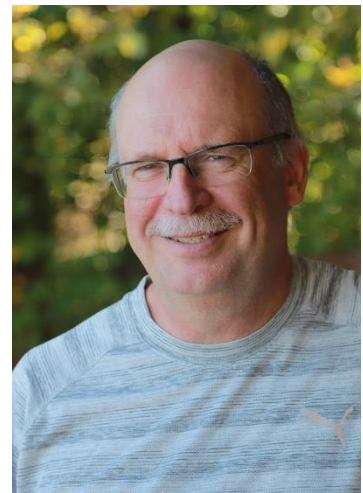
From a young age, Roger has been a passionate follower of Formula 1 (Grand Prix) racing and has so far managed to attend races at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza, the Monaco Grand Prix in Monte Carlo, and numerous British Grand Prix at various circuits in the UK.

## *Getting to Know You (Part 2): Terry Hooper*

By Terry Hooper

My wife and I retired and moved to Courtenay at the end of 2018. One of the many things that drew us to the Comox Valley was the ElderCollege course offerings as a participant, and the possibility of being able to give courses as a course leader.

I had a 40-year career in Regina, Saskatchewan working for large corporations doing everything and anything in information technology (IT) and, on the side, conducting adult education evening and weekend computer courses and helping friends with their personal computing issues.



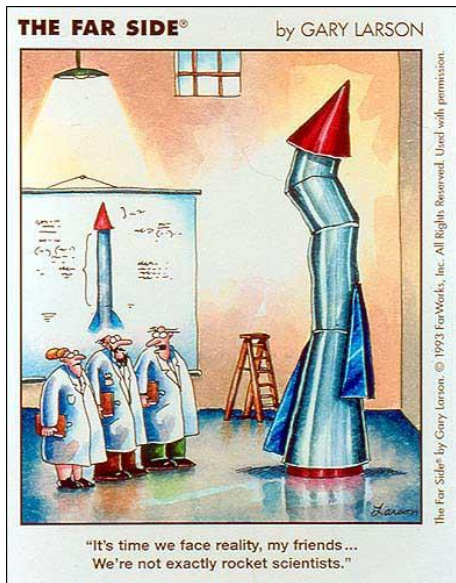
Now in my retirement, I am taking pleasure in giving ElderCollege courses with an IT-bent, and also applying all that IT experience and expertise to the benefit of the ElderCollege as a Curriculum Committee volunteer. By the way, if there are others with a middling amount of computer expertise, I could sure use a hand helping support the various committees as they get all their stuff online!

Outside of the ElderCollege, Marlene and I enjoy hiking, cycling, swimming, alpine skiing, cooking with fresh produce, and lots of other activities—all of which we can now have at our doorstep in the valley in much more temperate weather compared to the prairies. And we like to travel, and usually do so in conjunction with our taking part in triathlon events locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally as international-level certified triathlon officials (similar to referees).

We are looking forward to meeting people as course participants, ElderCollege volunteers, and in all our side adventures!

## For Your Enjoyment

Reasons to attend ElderCollege:





### Video viewing

Those of a certain age will remember the TV show *Dagnet*. But how many have seen its star, Jack Webb, go head-to-head with Johnny Carson in the [Dagnet Clapper Caper](#)? Prepare for plenty of guffaws!





Most of us don't need a reason not to mess with a rhino, but for those who need reassurance that it's not a good idea, check out [this video](#).

You won't believe the images that can be created with human shadows in [this audition](#) for Britain's Got Talent.

