



# LIVING AND LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

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Look for us at: [www.llir.ca](http://www.llir.ca)

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**Winter  
2012  
Edition**

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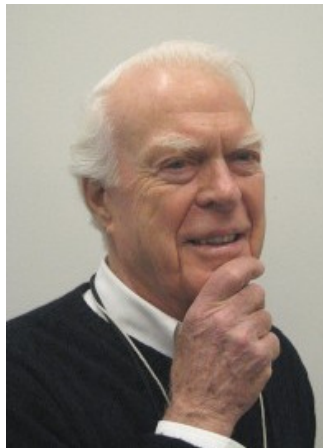
## The President's Message - Bill Toyne

As I sit here keyboarding this report, I'm in a thankful mood - thankful for the vision of LLIR's founders, for our great relationship with Glendon, for a wonderful Board of Directors who are working to make LLIR even better in the future, and for you our members. Your contributions of ideas to our learning series and your willingness to help by taking attendance, thanking speakers or joining in the work of the Board are much appreciated.

I feel very fortunate to be a member of LLIR. This is an organization founded on the value of providing learning opportunities for seniors and retirees. It quickly became successful because it sought input from its members for future courses and encouraged active participation in the learning process. Many of those who agree to develop courses for us do so because of LLIR's reputation for outstanding questions and discussion following the lecture. It is critical that we keep this a member-driven organization. As a Board member, I have the privi-

lege of attending any of the programs (provided there is a seat). My problem has been choosing which lecture to attend as they have been so good this year and are looking equally exciting for 2012-13.

The inconvenience we have experienced this year with the construction is about to pay off. We have arranged with Glendon to use two of



the lecture halls in the new building. With its location at the front of the campus access to classrooms should be easier for all of us.

When you return in the fall, we will have a team to greet you and help navigate the new facilities.

At the same time we are expanding the number of classes to five each term, utilizing our current main floor lecture room, Room 129, together with the two new rooms. With increased capacity and more lectures we hope to be able to bring more members in from the waiting list. But this will be a gradual, planned development.

At our AGM in March, six of our Directors will retire. They are Robin

Barfoot, Pat Brodie, Dan Damov, Craig Fuller, Rob Metcalf and Alan Morson. You will know them from their work as course chairs. They have served LLIR well in varying capacities as A/V Co-ordinator, Friends of Glendon Convenor, Program Committee member, Finance Committee member, Chair of Finance, and President. It has been a privilege for me to work with them and I want to express my best personal wishes and appreciation to them.

*Bill Toyne* March 2012

### Humour - Maybe?

- If a man is walking alone in a park and expresses an opinion without anybody hearing him, is he still wrong?
- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- Half the people you know are below average.
- All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.



**Yes, You!**

## Your Annual General Meeting

*The Annual General Meeting will be held on March 23rd, the last day of lectures. It will be held in Room 204 at 11:15 a.m. As a result, morning classes will start half an hour earlier at 9:30 a.m. Afternoon classes will not be affected. Please plan to attend. This is your chance to ask questions, to find out what is happening to LLIR and to welcome the newly appointed Board members.*

## Our 2012 Winter Season Course Directors

Here are the four people who, in the words of Hercule Poirot, are keeping our little grey cells from atrophying. You can also read about them on our new, easy to remember, website: [www.llir.ca](http://www.llir.ca).

**Peter H. Russell** is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto where he taught political science for nearly 40 years. At the University he was Principal of Innis College from 1971-76 and more recently the founding Principal of Senior College.

He has served as President of the Canadian Political Science Association and Chairman of the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Par-



liamentary Democracy. He has also published extensively in the fields of judicial, constitutional and Aboriginal politics,

and is a well-known and engaging commentator on public affairs.

Dr. Russell is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the recipient of a number of honorary degrees. Is it any wonder that LLIR is delighted to have him as the Course Director for *Canadian Politics: Canada In Question?*

**Gillian Helfield**, the Course Director for *Documentary Cinema: The Pursuit of Reality*, has always been a movie buff and has been able to channel this interest into careers in film production and academia.

At present Dr. Helfield teaches Cinema and Media Studies in York University's Department of Film. Her

Ph.D. dissertation was on the cinéma vérité movement at the National Film Board and her area of specialization is Canadian and Quebecois cinema.

However, she has an interest and expertise in a variety of film subjects including



film history and aesthetics, genre studies, international cinema, and television and cultural studies. Her special talent is sharing this knowledge to give intriguing insights into our society and culture.

**Francis Broun**, the Course Director for *Galleries of the World: More Than Just the Art*, came to Canada from Scotland in 1967. He has a B.A. from McGill and a Ph.D. from Princeton, both in art history. For many years he worked at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), teaching courses, helping to organize Old



Master exhibitions and accompanying AGO trips to Europe. Since 1989 he has been a popular freelance lecturer at

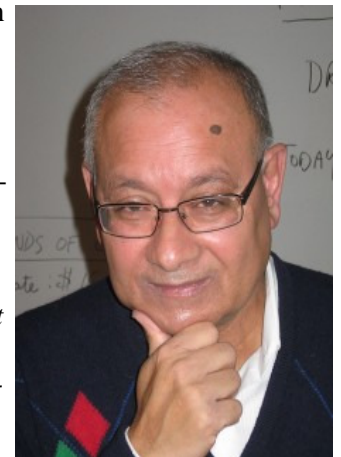
organizations such as the Ontario College of Art and Design, the Royal Conservatory of Music (where he was head of the Humanities Department), and the Women's Art Association. Not surprisingly he was twice nominated in TV Ontario's

Best Lecturer competition.

He also leads tours for art lovers to cities in North America and Europe. For those who enjoy a virtual tour Dr. Broun has introduced LLIR members to the Art Project powered by Google which explores a number of famous galleries around the world.

**Alok Mukherjee**, the Course Director for *India: Today and in the Future*, immigrated to Canada from India in 1971. He is a recognized educator, consultant and public speaker on equity, human rights and organizational change, and has served as Acting Chief Commissioner and Vice-Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Since 2005 he has been the Chair of the Toronto Police Services Board. Dr. Mukherjee has also taught Indian and South

Asian cultures and languages at York University and is the author of *"This Gift of English: English Education*



*and the Rise of Alternative Hegemonies in India"*.

He has always taken an active role in the community and has received several awards for his volunteer activities.

### Volunteers

As usual, we want to thank all those volunteers who help our Course Chairs and Course Directors in making the lectures as enjoyable as possible. If you have never volunteered for Attendance, AV, or Thanking a Speaker, you might want to consider it next term. You will meet more people and feel more involved.



# Third Age Network

an association of lifelong learning groups in Ontario

## Third Age Network News



Ever thought you'd like to know more about other groups like LLIR in Toronto or Ontario? How they operate? Whether they have waiting lists? Who their speakers are? Well, through TAN, you can find out more.

TAN or The Third Age Network is an informal network of representatives of a number of Third Age Learning groups like ours in Ontario. *Third Age Learning* refers to the learning one can do when family and work responsibilities are less. (First age refers to our learning years, second age to our earning years). In 2008, several organizers of Third Age (seniors' learning) events in the Toronto area recognized much could be gained by sharing information and resources. At first Toronto based, the Network has grown to include representatives from Burlington, London, Mississauga, Owen Sound and Collingwood as well as a number in the Toronto area. Indeed, any groups with the purpose of pro-

viding educational programs for seniors/retired people, i.e. Third Agers, are invited to become involved. Initially, the group met informally, sharing information and collecting comparative data on how each operated. In the fall of 2011, several committees were established to provide a structure to support the development of the group. The Executive Committee consists of Nancy Christie (Living and Learning in Retirement, Glendon), Chair; Austin Knowlton (Third Age Learning, Burlington), Vice Chair; Sheilagh Hickie, (Academy for Lifelong Learning, U of T) Secretary; Craig Fuller (Living and Learning in Retirement, Glendon), Treasurer; Loretta Fines, (Learning Unlimited for Etobicoke Seniors) and Sandra Kerr, (Programs for the 50-Plus, Ryerson), Members at Large.

**Website:** In the fall of 2011, thanks to donations from a number of member organizations, including LLIR, an independent website at: <http://www.thirdagenetwork.ca> was established for TAN. It provides resources and information for anyone interested, in particular, organizers of

Third Age Learning groups.

**Learning from each other:** Over the last 3 years, data collected by TAN show that the number of people in our member groups ranges from 180-1250; the costs per course range from \$5-\$70; membership fees range from \$0-\$160; the format of learning can be formal lectures or peer-led discussion groups; the number of lectures in a series ranges from 3-12; class sizes vary from 24-180; some groups have links to universities, colleges, a municipality or church while others operate independently. In addition to the very useful comparative data noted above, representatives have shared information about best practices, including "good speakers", and attended others' sessions just to see how other programs operate. Payment to speakers has been compared as have costs of renting space. To learn more, follow the TAN website to websites of other programs.

Those involved in the Third Age Network have found colleagues that share similar issues in preparing challenging courses for their members. It is the goal of the Network to provide the contacts, knowledge and resources for member groups, whether they are well established or just getting off the ground. At a future date, there are plans to hold a conference for those interested in, and involved with, providing challenging educational opportunities for Third Agers.

In summary, TAN is assisting local organizations in their efforts to provide excellent programs for people in their retirement years. It is a significant step in making Third Age learning more widely available for people like us.

**Nancy Christie**

President of LLIR in 2008-09

## Holiday Hosting

LLIR Members, Mike and Valerie Antoniadis, hosted a student who remained on campus during the winter holiday break. They received this thank-you note from Saquib Ahmed and thought others would like to see it as well. Saquib comes from Bangladesh and is studying economics and political science.

*Dear Mr. Antoniadis,  
A very Happy New Year to you and your family and thank you once again for a very lovely Christmas Dinner.  
I greatly enjoyed sharing my experi-*

*ence with my family who were equally thrilled that you all were so kind in welcoming me into your home and hearts so gracefully. They have asked me to forward their thanks and gratitude. I shall earnestly look forward to another opportunity to meet you again and listen to your wonderful stories.*

*I shall always treasure the time I spent with your family and think of it with warm feelings, fond memories and a special place in my heart.*

*Sincerely,*

*Saquib-Uddin Ahmed*

### LLIR Gets a New Website!!

After several years of association with the York/Glendon website (admittedly with a hard to remember address), our own brand new website [www.llir.ca](http://www.llir.ca), went live on Feb 10. Make sure you check in to see its features. You will immediately note that the headers cleverly match those of this newsletter. Since we are not currently advertising for new members, the site is for existing members and is full of information about what is happening in LLIR.

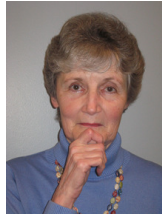
- The **Home Page** has LLIR history, our mission and vision statements and a message from President Bill Toyne.
- The **Registration and Membership** page has info on the upcoming season and a downloadable Membership Guidelines file.
- The **Program Committee** page talks about the search for courses and has downloadable forms for new ideas and course evaluation.
- The **Course Information, Winter 2102** section leads you to details about current courses including director bio's and the course outlines. This section also includes delightful kernels such as Peter Russell's reading list, Gillian Helfield's DVD list, Alok Mukherjee's handout with 20 links to supporting sites, and Francis Broun's website and the Google Art Project site.
- The **Newsletters** page lets you download the current and past newsletters.
- The **Links** page leads you to links for Glendon and Third Age Network sites.

Please wander through it, and, if you have any ideas for upgrades, send them to [info@llir.com](mailto:info@llir.com). The site was built by member Lance Gitter and our AV Coordinator Gaylen Racine.

### Heard in the Hall

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize  
82.7% of all statistics are made up  
on the spot

### The Friends of Glendon



The Friends of Glendon began in 1971 as a way for a group of staff and faculty at Glendon College to assist students facing financial

hardship. It is heartening, forty years later, to read the 2010-11 Friends of Glendon Annual Report and realize how much has been accomplished. For example, last year nearly \$100,000 was given out to students in scholarships, bursaries and awards, and almost \$27,000 was provided in interest-free loans. As generous donors to the Friends of Glendon, LLIR members share in this success. The President of the Friends of Glendon Board expressed it this way - *"On behalf of the Board, but most importantly, on behalf of Glendon students, thank you for every dollar you have given, and every dollar you will give. You changed my life, and your next donation will change another."*

*Karen Edson*

LLIR Convenor, Friends of Glendon

### The New Building on Campus

By mid-March it is expected that the new building will no longer be a construction site. It will be a facility that can be occupied.



There will still be work to be done, such as installing chairs in the classrooms and lecture halls, but the new space will be open for viewing. It will be something to see! The building has three floors and a below ground or community level. The rooms LLIR will be using next fall are the 250-seat auditorium which can be accessed from both the first and second floors and a 125-seat lecture hall on the community level. There is a full-size elevator near

these rooms and washrooms on every floor. The audio-visual equipment will be state-of-the-art and Tim Hortons will be operating a café on the first floor near the auditorium. Each of the floors has some regular classrooms and the third floor has a terrace.

At the end of March there may be an opportunity to participate in an event in the new building. Each year the students enrolled in Glendon's International Studies Program host a symposium. This year the focus is on Germany. "Prospects and Challenges for Contemporary Germany" will be held on Saturday, March 31 and, if all goes according to plan, the new building will be the location. LLIR members are always welcome to attend these events. So, this year, as well as interesting speakers and ideas, there may be the added bonus of enjoying the new facility.

### In Memoriam

A year ago, we included a little article thanking the Glendon IT Services Department, and specifically Jean Dignard, for always being there in our time of need. Sadly, as this LLIR term began, we heard that Jean had



died suddenly on Friday, December 30 in Richmond Hill. Sabine Lauffer, Director of Glendon ITS stated that "Jean has been the heart and soul of the Glendon ITS Helpdesk for the past 10 years. On Jan. 3, he would have been proud to celebrate his 10-year anniversary with his many friends and colleagues," She also said that he "will be greatly missed by many in the University as can be witnessed by the outpouring of support since the unfortunate news of his passing". To that, we can only add our condolences.

*Robin Barfoot*