



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2, 2020

**Meeting conducted by Canadian Webinar Solutions via Zoom
Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 10:30 A.M.**

1. Welcome to the Annual General Meeting

Doug Wilson welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting of the Academy for Lifelong Learning, 2020. Canadian Webinar Solutions confirmed we have a quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

The minutes for the 2019 AGM were presented by Doug. There was no discussion.

Moved that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of June 3, 2019 be approved: Doug Wilson; Seconded, Sharon Harris.

3. Report of the President, Doug Wilson.

I was honoured to be asked to be the President of the Academy for this past year. Our Academy is an organization that I deeply respect and have worked hard for since I became a member in 2007.

Everyone knows that some people are selected for Academy leadership positions when there are few crises and everything is calm; as you well know now this does not apply to this past year. Our Academy life changed in mid-March 2019 when President Sharon Harris received a letter from Knox College informing us that we were to pack up and leave Knox by April 30, 2019.

Sharon did an exemplary job negotiating with Dr. John A. Vissers, Principal of Knox College, to remain at Knox until April 30, 2020. Through the meeting that can only be described as a classic negotiation, both the Academy and Knox made some concessions that were acceptable to both parties. I will say that our last year at Knox was not perfect, but each party made our agreement work successfully, and for that I thank the staff of Knox on behalf of all Academy members.

At the Academy one of the roles of the Past-President is to find a new “home” when one is required. I want to sincerely thank Brian Gaston and his wife Sue, along with a large and very dedicated group of supporters who searched many venues across downtown Toronto to find a new site for the Academy to conduct its business. Brian and his colleagues presented two sites for the board’s consideration. Your new board visited these two sites in order to make its decision.

At the board’s first meeting in July 2019 the board voted unanimously to make Tartu College our new home. The board at this meeting also passed a motion requiring the Academy to hire a real estate lawyer to assist us with the

development of an agreement. A small group of board members created a list of requirements for the Academy, and then met with our lawyer to create an agreement. This agreement was shared with Linda Karuks, the General Manager at Tartu College, who then shared it with her board. This took place at the end of October 2019.

I was informed that the Tartu board also decided to hire its own real estate lawyer who assisted their board to draw up their own set of parameters. The Academy heard nothing from Tartu for the entire month of November 2019. I know that there was a large number of Academy members who were angered and frustrated with the lack of communication from me, and I sincerely apologize for this. Unfortunately, the Academy board was engaged in a complicated, complex, and on-going process to finalize an acceptable agreement with Tartu that was fair and reasonable to both organizations. There was just nothing to communicate to our members as we waited for Tartu to react to our proposed agreement.

The Tartu board met in early December and discussed an agreement that was supported by the Tartu staff and the Academy board. The Tartu board supported the agreement with the exception of the Tartu President who wanted a minor wording change to one section of the document. The Academy was informed on the morning of December 11, the day of our Holiday Luncheon. Sharon Harris and I agreed that the proposed change did not alter the intent of that particular section of the agreement where it existed.

It was always my hope, and on some days my dream, that I could inform our membership of the signing of our agreement with Tartu on or before our Holiday Luncheon. At the Holiday Luncheon Sharon and I received the agreement of a majority of our board members to support the wording change requested by the Tartu President. So I threw my speech out and spoke from my heart about how pleased I and my colleague board members were to have this uncertainty behind us. The Academy had a “new home” and a place that really wanted to accommodate us and make us feel comfortable “at home”.

At a glance this might not sound particularly stressful, but it certainly was. Because the Agreement was signed and in place, I thought I could focus my time and energy on the joys of the Holiday Season, and that the time period between January and June 2020 would be relatively uneventful because everything the Academy board does was already underway. How could I have been so totally naïve?

My wife and I do not usually take winter vacations, but this year we flew to Miami and got on a cruise ship headed to Rio de Janeiro. Every morning we woke up to the stories on television emanating from the Diamond Princess about the challenges the passengers and crew were facing from COVID-19. Our crew took care of us incredibly well, and to our knowledge there were no passengers who came down with the virus. Our flight from Rio to Toronto via Houston was safe and successful. We arrived in Toronto in mid-February, just in time to learn more about the pandemic that was moving around our world.

Immediately upon arriving home I contacted Sue Kralik and informed her that we needed to monitor the impact of the spread of the virus internationally. On March 12 it became clear to both of us that we needed to cancel the last two weeks of workshops, as well as the remaining Forums, Talks, Walks, the Facilitator’s Workshop and the Volunteer’s Reception, as well as certain dates related to the registration process, and the Academy Annual General Meeting.

Everything seemed to end so abruptly. There were no good-byes, no social end-of-term get-togethers, and no social encounters provided by the largely supported Spring Talks by Academy members and their guests. I want to thank and congratulate those facilitators and workshop participants who continued to experience their workshops in unique ways after all future events were shut down.

There were numerous successes this year made by your board. I have already talked about the signing of the Agreement between the Academy of Lifelong Learning and Tartu College. Sue and I have recently talked to Linda

and she has informed us that Tartu College has applied for building permits that they hope will be provided when construction begins again across Toronto.

Under the leadership of Deborah Del Duca and Sue Kralik, along with Thea Herman and Virginia Clark, the Academy's By-laws have been enhanced to be in close alignment with the Guidelines provided by Industry Canada. These revised and enhanced By-laws are part of your AGM package and you can vote for or against them using Survey Monkey. I want to thank Deborah, Thea, and Virginia along with Sue Kralik for a job extremely well done on our By-laws.

I want to thank John Weatherburn for not only chairing the Special Events committee when we struggled last year to find a new committee chair, but also to thank John for all the work he has done on bringing the Members' Handbook up-to-date.

I want to thank Priscilla Platt for volunteering to update the Academy's Privacy Policy. Priscilla's recommendations will be submitted to the in-coming board when she develops her policy.

I want to thank Jeff Biteen who is heading the Corona Task Force, a group that will address the organizational, financial, and program issues as we deal with the current pandemic. Assisting Jeff is Sue Kralik, Joan Cullemore, Ron Miller, Cathy Spark, Brian Gaston, and Bill Moore.

I want to thank our Tech Team under the leadership of Jim Pike and Philip Wong for assisting many of us on an on-going basis dealing with both technical situations and videoconferencing.

I also want to thank the current board of the Academy. They are a group of dedicated professionals who have worked very hard during the past year to make the Academy an organization we are all proud to belong to. Sincere thanks from me to Jeff Biteen, Huguette Blanco, Joan Cullemore, Liz Guccione, Sharon Harris, Randal Holloway, Sue Kralik, Gillian Long, Jenny Lorentowicz, Clare Mian, Bill Moore, Susan Murphy, Lorna Poplak, Janet Tyrell, Connie Utrecht, and John Weatherburn. Thanks for supporting me and your colleagues in making the Academy a strong and respected organization.

My final thanks goes out to the person who mentored me while I was Vice-President – Sharon Harris. Greatly appreciated and valued!

Best of luck to Sue Kralik and her team as they become the Academy board effective June 2, 2020. I know you will do a great job!

Jeff Biteen will now tell you about the Board's Tech Team, organized to deal with the issues resulting from the pandemic.

As the start of the 2020/21 Academy year will be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, the Board has established a task force – Academy 2020/21 - with a mandate to prepare members and facilitators for the coming academic year when we will have to deliver workshops via videoconference. The task force represents all the Board and committee functions.

The group has developed communications to explain how we will meet through the social distancing period. They have begun delivering these occasional communications by email and through the website and have set up a mailbox to answer any questions you may have regarding technology, class operation, socializing, presentations and other topics. Questions addressed to the OurAcademy2021@gmail.com email address are being distributed to the appropriate member for a quick and accurate response. Input sent to the email box allows the task force to better understand what is on the minds of Academy members. Response to date has been positive and enthusiastic.

The group is hard at work determining facilitators' and participants' technical and classroom protocol needs and developing training plans and resources to address them. These will be delivered during the summer. With training and coaching, we expect that our facilitators and members will move easily into this mode of learning and engagement.

Finally, the group is also staying in close touch with our new hosts at Tartu College, whose spring and summer renovation plans have been postponed by the pandemic-calming shutdowns in place. We will share updates of their progress with you as we receive them.

4. Report of the Vice-President, Sue Kralik

Thank you to all of you who have shared your love of learning with your fellow Academy members this year and thank you for participating in this Annual General Meeting.

First and foremost, I want to thank our President, Doug Wilson, for his leadership in this challenging academic year. During the move to our new 'home' Doug has maintained ongoing communication with Tartu and has shared information with Academy members as it became available. He has been careful to ensure that the information he provides is accurate and complete, a moniker of responsible leadership. With the additional challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Doug's calm and reflective style of decision making has been extremely beneficial. Thank you, Doug, for being a responsible, reliable and thoughtful leader. You have carried us through a challenging time and will continue to support us as we approach a new academic year.

We know that our organization, like all later learning organizations, will be affected by the physical distancing regulations and concerns about the safety of our members. However, because of the expertise and support of the Academy's Tech Team, we will be able to offer outstanding workshops in the fall whether we meet in person or virtually. Members of the Academy for Lifelong Learning, as our title indicates, eagerly welcome new learning opportunities and we are certainly being offered that opportunity now. As your incoming President, I look forward to supporting our organization any way I can. The incoming Board of outstanding volunteers will work with me to ensure that our active learning experiences continue to be exciting and stimulating.

As your Vice-President during this academic year, I served as a member of the Board of the Third Age Network, an umbrella organization that provides support and communication amongst the various later life learning organizations. In my capacity as Board member of TAN, I was able to share updates with the Academy Board members and in the current situation with COVID- 19, that communication has been especially important. The TAN network is comprised of later life learning organizations of various models, including lectures. ALL's active learning model is one of which we can be very proud. Our facilitators and volunteers on various committees are the backbone of this organization, and their commitment to peer learning is truly impressive.

In serving as an ex-officio member of two academy committees this year, I have been extremely impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the chairs, vice-chairs, and committee members. The outstanding dedication of our volunteers has created a learning organization with a reputation for excellence.

This year, a committee was formed to update the Academy Handbook in which the operating structure and practices determined by the Board are collected. The Handbook is publicly posted on the Academy's website and all members are encouraged to avail themselves of the information it contains. The procedures for members of each of the Board committee have also been updated and will provide a helpful guide for new as well as continuing committee members when the 2020-2021 academic year begins.

A second important initiative this year was the updating of the Academy By-Laws to ensure that they are written in user-friendly language, retain the integrity and intent of the current (2017) by-laws, add critical items that were missing, and provide clarity on the powers and responsibilities of Board members as well as on the obligations of

members. Thank you to Deborah Del Duca and her committee for undertaking this task. The revised by-laws are being presented to the entire membership at this AGM for your approval. Once approved, they will be posted on the ALL website.

As we approach the conclusion of the 2019-2020 academic year at the Academy, I want to wish you all a healthy summer. I look forward to working with the Board and all members of the Academy to ensure that the upcoming academic year will be a successful and enjoyable one.

5. Report of the Treasurer, Huguette Blanco

The Academy is in a very strong financial position, with a sound cash reserve that will allow us to face any unanticipated expenditures as we settle in our new home. Our total registrations for the 2019-2020 year were in line with the registrations of the previous year. We also replaced a projector and increased our supplies of microphones to improve the conduct of our workshops.

Unfortunately we ended the year with a curtailment of our planned spring activities due to the pandemic brought upon us by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In mid-March we cancelled the Spring Luncheon, the Facilitators Workshop, the Volunteers Luncheon and the Spring Talks and we are using a digital application for our AGM and other meetings. These unanticipated reductions in our activities explain in part the unusually large surplus of \$23,615 for the year.

We have also provided information about our financial commitment to Tartu College in the notes to the financial statements. Our classroom rental cost at Tartu will be 36% higher than what it was at Knox College. Our rental cost generally accounts for 35 to 40 percent of our usual total expenditures.

Once we gain some experience in our new home we will have a better grasp of our needs and of our expenditures. We will then have to review the membership fees so that we have a good balance between our revenues and our expenditures.

I am thankful to Joan Cullemore, the assistant treasurer for 2019-2020, for her help throughout the year. The financial affairs of the Academy are now in her very capable hands.

6. Annual Financial Statements, Vote:

Moved that the Annual Financial Statements be approved: Huguette Blanc; Seconded, Gillian Long.

Motion passed with 70 voting in favour and one opposed.

7. Committee Reports:

Communications: Gillian Long, Chair; Asst. Chair, Lorna Poplak.

Greetings Everyone,

Like all of us, I had not expected to have to report to you in this remote fashion. In some ways, it is more daunting than doing so in person as I miss the encouraging support of your friendly faces.

The 2019-2020 Communications year started much like every other year, as we assigned roving reporters and photographers to cover the excellent biweekly forums arranged by the Talks Committee. I am grateful to all members - Lorna Poplak, Janet Broadley, Ian Darragh, Mary Doucette, Brian Gaston, Matt Segal, Cathy Spark and Patti Stoll- for their help.

Special thanks go to Mary Doucette for producing colourful posters before each talk and to Matt Segal for designing brochures for the Spring Talks, now sadly cancelled. Lorna Poplak has been a supportive Assistant Chair and I very much regret that personal circumstances have prevented her from succeeding me as Chair. Thank you, Lorna!

To my considerable relief, Past Chair Cathy Spark is still our indefatigable Webmaster and her advice has been invaluable to me. She has worked hard to streamline all website functions, keeping the News page up to date, facilitating registration for Academy events, in conjunction with Special Events, and most recently has been cooperating with Curriculum and Membership in the complicated annual process of Workshop Registration for our first year in our new home at Tartu College. Thank you, Cathy!

The Academy Quarterly Review (AQR) has continued to evolve this year and has focused on interesting, but hitherto unknown to most of us, aspects of our fellow Academicians' lives. Your enthusiastic response to our efforts has been most gratifying. We have tried to wrap up the issues with a quirky tale or reminiscence. I was delighted to include work by two new Academy members, the fascinating "Gargoyles of Toronto" by Terry Murray (Fall 2019) and "The ALL World through the Eyes of a Newbie" by Sheila Neysmith (Spring 2020).

I was even more delighted when these same talented new members answered my email appeal. They have volunteered to become Chair (Sheila) and Assistant Chair (Terry) of the Communications Committee for the coming year. Please join me in welcoming them!

Finally, all year long it has been my privilege to send regular emails to each one of you, keeping you up to date with upcoming events or important issues. In that long-ago world before COVID-19, these included the ever-popular summer weekly walks and lunches. Here's hoping we can enjoy them again before too long!

Thank you for your support this past year. I look forward to seeing you again in person in our new home of Tartu College. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Curriculum: Susan Murphy, Chair; Asst. Chair, Jeff Biteen

The past academic year began with uncertainty. In September, we knew this would be our last year at Knox College but we didn't know where our new home would be. We are indebted to all those who worked on assembling a spreadsheet of possible locations and painstakingly checking them out. The Academy had a very specific shopping list of "must haves", not least of which was a central location close to transit in a very high rent district! We are fortunate to have found our new home at Tartu College and we look forward to moving into our new classrooms whenever that becomes possible. Thanks to Jeff Biteen for representing Curriculum on the Tartu transition team and to members of the Tech Team for ascertaining A/V and other technical requirements in our new space.

We began our customary task of gathering and reviewing workshop proposals last October. We were greatly assisted in this work by the link on the allto.ca website <https://allto.ca/have-an-idea-for-a-workshop-topic/> which allows members to submit suggestions for workshop topics and facilitators throughout the year. In future we will dispense with the practice of using posters in classrooms for write-in submissions.

We were gratified by the number and variety of workshop proposals – 21 of the total number of 43 were new. While fresh ideas are exciting, we are always glad to welcome back the Academy's continuing workshops which have attracted a faithful following over the years. The Curriculum Committee is not only

concerned with the diversity of the Academy's program but also its balance and breadth. This year saw an upsurge of proposals with socio-political or technological themes – undoubtedly a reflection of our wider society's preoccupations. We also saw an increase in the number of literature-based workshops. Despite our best efforts, the visual arts are under-represented in this year's line-up – a deficiency we hope will be rectified in the future.

In January of this year, we learned some unsettling news. The University of Toronto had decided on a new policy which excluded the use by outside groups of Media Commons facilities at the Robarts Library. This meant that the Documentary Film workshop would no longer have access to the screening room they had used for a number of years (at no cost). By the time this news was learned, the classroom schedule at Tartu had already been filled and there were no four-hour time slots available. Despite a determined search by workshop facilitator, Doug Wilson, it proved to be impossible to locate a suitable rental location in which to run the workshop. It was decided, with regret, that Documentary Film would need to take a hiatus for the year. Now it appears, there may be a glimmer of hope. At time of writing, Sharon Harris is exploring the possibility of offering a virtual version of the workshop if content and copyright issues can be successfully resolved. Stay tuned!

Every year the Curriculum Committee sends out surveys to canvas the opinions of our members. I would like to thank Peter Steiner and Philip Wong for their valued work as SurveyMonkey gurus and their forbearance of many last-minute template changes. The Members' Survey is sent out in the last week of classes of the fall semester. It allows members to comment anonymously on their workshop experience. This feedback is useful for facilitators but is even more useful when shared with class members in a collegial manner that encourages meaningful improvements.

In February, the Facilitators' survey was distributed. The results of this are particularly helpful to our Committee in flagging any problem areas and helping us plan the content of the Facilitators' Forum. Preparations for this year's Forum, scheduled for April 6 at Hart House, were well under way when it became a victim of the widespread shutdown occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 16, all Academy activities were cancelled for the foreseeable future.

At first, there was some hope that government imposed social distancing guidelines would be relatively short-lived but as the days passed it became clearer that we should not expect things to have returned to "normal" by the beginning of the fall semester. We are very conscious that the Academy's demographic is one of the most vulnerable to the virus and that even if government guidelines have been substantially lifted, many of our members may not feel safe travelling to, or being in, a classroom setting.

We were heartened to hear that some of the workshops that were prematurely cancelled at the end of the winter semester had unofficially continued to operate via Zoom with great success. A survey was sent out to facilitators to determine their attitudes to, and experience with, videoconferencing platforms. We were gratified to learn that many of our facilitators already had some experience or else were open to learning a new set of skills.

As a committee we felt confident that, with the development of programs of videoconferencing training and support for both facilitators and members, we could successfully deliver our planned workshop program beginning in September. Our contingency plan covers a number of possibilities. If we cannot operate as we normally would, then workshops will be offered remotely via videoconference. When restrictions are eased, we will keep videoconferencing alternatives in play until members are comfortable with mixing in groups.

We are indebted to the members of the Tech Leadership Virtual Workshops team - Brian Gaston, Jim Pike, Philip Wong, Peter Steiner and Enrique Biber – who are not only working hard on a training plan to ensure that we learn the requisite new skills but have also recruited a number of additional volunteers to provide ongoing support to every workshop.

It is never easy to embrace change and we know that Academy members will miss the face-to-face social interaction that comes with classroom learning. We do not ever see videoconferencing becoming the Academy's norm and trust that we will be able to resume operations in our new home at Tartu sooner, rather than later. That said, we believe that our newly gained videoconferencing abilities could be a valuable tool in the future. A tool that could be used in inclement weather, or absences of class members, or to allow workshop members to continue "meeting" over the summer months.

I look back on this year as one that has required constant adaptation to changing circumstances. As a result, our committee has been required to do a lot of brainstorming. I am thankful that our members have never been shy about expressing their opinions! Special thanks to my Vice Chair, Jeff Biteen, who has shouldered some heavy tasks at difficult times and to departing members Jeanette Clark, Pat Cross, Virginia Clark, and Susan Schwartz. They have served well and will be missed.

Membership: Randal Holloway, Chair; Asst. Chair, Bill Moore.

Membership currently stands at 309, compared to 370 registered members at this time last year. Despite this we are hopeful more registrations will be received as the concerns and uncertainties generated by Covid-19 hopefully decline over the summer.

Given the cancellations of Walks and Spring Talks we lost these opportunities to attract new members as done in previous years. Members are strongly encouraged to promote the Academy to any potential new member.

John Weatherburn has been instrumental in updating the *Membership Committee User Guide* and the *Membership Committee Handbook*. In addition, John worked with the Secretary, Treasurer as well as the Talks, Special Events, Communications and Curriculum committees toward coordinating the updating of the member's *Academy Handbook*.

I would like to thank the dedicated and hard-working members of the Membership Committee who have spent many hours managing the database and members' records to ensure a smooth registration process despite the challenges and uncertainties brought on by Covid-19:

John Weatherburn, Past Chair
William (Bill) Moore, Assistant Chair
Vivienne Monty, Ex-Officio

A special thanks to Rhona Wolpert who is responsible for having identified and recruited members to serve on committees and the Board as she leaves her long-held role as Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Karen Kwan, Database Manager
Caroline Gray, Member
Patricia Maltby, Member
Sue Wessinger, Member
Tony Key, Member
Patricia Cross who will be our Volunteer Co-ordinator for 2020-2021.

Special Events: John Weatherburn, Chair; Asst. Chair, Janet Tyrell.

Normally the committee has arranged and carried out the Holiday Luncheon in December, the Spring Luncheon in April (which follows our scheduled classes) and the Facilitators Forum and Volunteers Luncheon, also in April. Fortunately, the Holiday Luncheon at the Faculty Club was well attended, but the Spring Luncheon and Facilitators Forum and Volunteer Lunch had to be cancelled this year.

We did an initial Orientation Session for New Members at the Faculty Club on September 5, 2019, prior to the start of classes. It was well attended by new members and board/committee members who presented a lot of information about the Academy. We had good feedback from a survey: including some comments from continuing members who said they learned new things from it! Depending on the situation in the fall, we have scheduled this again for September 9th at Tartu.

It is unclear what next year will bring, but we will likely continue with the Holiday and Spring Luncheons at the Faculty Club. Location to be determined for the 2021 Facilitators Forum and Volunteers Lunch.

Thank you to the members of the Special Events Committee for your input and contribution over the last year. Committee members were Trudi Armstrong, Janet Tyrell, Odilie Gaudet, Debrah Weiss, Nancy Kraft, Doris Loo, Audrey Swail, Val Melman and Niki Warrington. Together it has been a great team.

Thank you also to Ken Snelson who has arranged the walks for Academy members for a number of years. Ken has had to step down now. I have arranged for a number of people to continue leading the walks this year. However, the plans are on hold until we see how things develop with the Virus.

Donna Reid has accepted the nomination as Assistant Chair and Janet Tyrell will be the Chair for the coming year.

Talks: Clare Mian, Chair; Asst. Chair, Liz Guccione

The Talks Committee got off to a wonderful start with an excellent Fall Forums program, and almost completed its Winter Forums program when unforeseen circumstances led to the cancellation of our Spring Talks.

The Fall Forums opened with three excellent presentations at Present the Presenters: Greg King on the evolution of China's power, Pat Cross on the economic challenges facing Canada's Arctic, and Dan McCabe on a view of "Doors" that most of us have never considered.

Following this Forum, we had an interesting presentation by poet Giovanna Riccio on "Barbie and the Evolution of Plastics", and a visually beautiful and highly useful presentation by Academician Ian Darragh on "Toronto's Ravines".

We were also treated to an unusual Forum on the subject of "Online Dating for Seniors". Academicians Ian Darragh, Brenda Doyle and Peter von Bertoldi gave us a humorous, candid and useful insight into the reality of this new and potentially enriching aspect of senior life in the 21st century. They were joined by dating coach, Elizabeth Laframboise, who provided valued practical suggestions and support.

The well-attended Fall season ended with a lively debate on "Resolved that the world would be a better place with more women leaders". Ably moderated by Linda Tu, the affirmative was supported by Margrit

Eichler and Michael Cole, with the negative represented by Sheilagh Hickie and Dan McCabe. Who won? Well, don't you wish you'd been there?!

We were lucky to have relatively mild weather throughout the early winter so that our Winter Forums were able to proceed. We heard from Toronto Public Health expert Dr. Vinita Dubey on the importance of vaccines; from physiotherapist Agnes Makowski on senior health and fitness; from Wayne Gooding on Toronto's distinguished history of opera and Bel Canto; and finally from Tom Hurka on "What makes a happy life". All led to lively question and answer sessions.

To round out our Winter Forums, Present the Presenters again featured three talented Academicians: Trudy Akler on Elsa Schiaparelli, designer, trend setter and rival to Coco Chanel; Ivan Lorant on exactly what is involved in evaluating the solutions to global warming; and Margaret Prugovecki on the political and legal issues involved in the Scopes "monkey trial".

The Talks Committee is grateful to Assistant Secretary Connie Utrecht for having secured the spacious Room 4 at Knox for all our Forums. We are also grateful to the Communications Committee, chaired by Gillian Long, for having advertised our events and for dispatching eloquent roving reporters to all of them. Special thanks are due to Mary Doucette who designed the wonderful posters; Matt Segal who produced the Spring Talks brochure; and our incomparable webmaster Cathy Spark who advertised and reported all events on the Academy website.

Sadly the March 11 Present the Presenters turned out to be our last event. Having just published our Spring Talks brochure and started our visits to all workshops to advertise what we thought was a varied and stimulating program, events led to the cancellation of Spring Talks.

The Talks Committee will continue to work hard to provide Fall and Winter Forums and Spring Talks as the Academy adapts to the constraints of the year 2020-21. We look forward to continuing to provide engaging topics and speakers to supplement our rich workshop program.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to chair the Talks Committee for the past year, and I would like to thank its members for a year of good discussion, hard work and terrific fun: Liz Guccione, who takes over as Chair; Priscilla Platt, who takes over as Assistant chair; Ian Darragh, Thea Herman, Jill Humphries, Kennedy Marshall, Adele Robertson and Linda Tu. I wish them all the best, and look forward to another year of informative and entertaining Forums and Talks.

8. By-Laws, Sue Kralik

During the preparation of the Code of Conduct last year, it became evident that some of the items in the by-laws were unclear or lacked direction or specificity to guide the Board and the members. Therefore, a team was struck, made up of Deborah Del Duca, Virginia Clark, Thea Herman, and Sue Kralik, to work on revisions to the by-laws.

- the objective for the revisions was to achieve a set of bylaws that would:
- be written in simple, user-friendly language (not complicated legalise)
- be written to retain the integrity and intent of the 2017 bylaws where possible and appropriate
- add critical items that were missing
- provide more clarity regarding the powers and authority of the Board, and its accountability to the membership
- provide more clarity regarding the requirements and obligations of members

- construct and format the bylaws as closely as possible to the requirements of Industry Canada

The By-Laws were included in the package sent to the membership in preparation for this AGM. They will be posted on our website.

9. By-Laws, Vote:

Moved that: the revised By-laws of the Academy for Lifelong Learning be approved: Sue Kralik; Seconder, Deborah Del Luca.

Motion passed with 70 people in favour, one opposed, and five abstentions.

10. Call for nomination of new Board Members, Sharon Harris, Past President.

PROPOSED SLATE OF NEW OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

It was a delight to virtually see my Academy friends. As Past President it has been my privilege to be part of the Board for the last three years and it has been a joy working with such hard-working professionals. I want to thank all the Board members for their friendship, advice and camaraderie, and Doug for his leadership during this incredibly trying year. We were shocked when we received notice that we had to leave Knox almost immediately and begin to search and then acquire a new home. It took a lot of investigating and negotiating. Once that was finally completed, a pandemic arrived to challenge our president once more. Doug handled it all with such grace, and a calm demeanour, and his transparency in communicating all new information was remarkable. Personally I want to thank all the members of the Academy. It was an honour serving on your Board. Before we vote for the new Board, Bill Moore has served as Assistant Chair of the Membership Committee for the last few months. So now while we nominate him for the next Board, I would like to confirm he served retroactively as the Assistant Chair of this year's Board.

Below is a slate of members whom the current Board has recommended to fill positions of responsibility and become directors on the 2020-2021 Board. According to our By-Laws nominations for all positions are welcomed from the floor at our Annual General Meeting. Volunteers are encouraged, and those who agree to be nominated for specific positions must submit short biographies which can be included in a revised version of this document to be presented at the AGM.

If you wish to volunteer for a leadership role, or if you wish to nominate another Academy member for a position, please do so.

VICE PRESIDENT

Virginia Clark has served on the Academy's Curriculum Committee and as Secretary to the Board. She was born in the USA, immigrated to Canada after university, and has been a Canadian by choice ever since. She has an M.A. in literature, and had a long career in publishing, editing and writing, and as a policy analyst. Shortly after she retired she joined the Academy. She is a great believer in the Academy's peer learning model.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Esme McMonagle was a social worker in the children's mental health field for forty years. A five-year member of the Academy, Esme has enjoyed peer learning with people from such interesting and diverse backgrounds. She is looking forward to contributing to the organizational aspect of the Academy's work.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Martin Jones is a retired business executive who began his career as a newspaper reporter and concluded it as managing director of a charitable foundation in Africa building schools and other social infrastructure. In between, he was a consultant in communications and crisis management to several prominent Canadian companies. He joined the Academy in 2016 and has been a hike leader for three years and will be co-facilitating a workshop in the fall.

CHAIR OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Sheila Neysmith is a professor emerita, University of Toronto and enjoyed a second career in Improv theatre. She joined the Academy last year because she was intrigued by its peer learning model. Sheila volunteered to chair the Communications committee because she believes that involvement is essential to belonging!

ASSISTANT CHAIR OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Terry Murray, new to the Academy last year, has been a medical journalist for the last forty years. She is essentially retired but still freelances occasionally, mainly for the Canadian Medical Association Journal. She is also the author of “Faces on Places: A Grotesque Tour of Toronto” about Toronto's gargoyles and other architectural sculpture. (Anansi, 2006).

ASSISTANT CHAIR OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

After obtaining an Electronics Engineering degree from McGill University, **Ron Miller** spent most of his career in Aerospace engineering both in Montreal and the GTA. Now retired, Ron spends his time on tennis courts and also, for the past three years, at the Academy where he has been a co-facilitator for two years. His interests are in any science/tech workshop and any that are multi-disciplinary.

CHAIR OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bill Moore has been an Academy member for sixteen years and has previously served on the board as Treasurer. His career was in finance and he finished working for a not for profit microcredit organization with operations in Canada, Africa and Latin America.

ASSISTANT CHAIR OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Caroline Gray is a recently retired learning leader with a global background and an expertise in technology-based learning. She began her career producing educational television series and ended it officially as KPMG's global head of technology-based learning. She continues to work in the field in a volunteer capacity as Chair of the Canadian Training Institute, and was named one of Canada's 10 most influential learning leaders in 2019 .

ASSISTANT CHAIR OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Donna Reid brings to the Academy thirty years as a children's mental health practitioner and post-secondary educator. A second year member of the Academy, and a great party planner, Donna believes event planning will be crucial to keep people connected to the Academy and to each other.

ASSISTANT CHAIR OF THE TALKS COMMITTEE

Priscilla Platt has been a member of the Academy for two years, during which time she co-facilitated the ‘Stand Up Comedy for Seniors’ workshop and was a member of the Talks Committee. Based on her involvement with the Talks Committee she was asked to be the Assistant Chair of the Committee, dependent on confirmation by the Board. She is a retired lawyer who had practiced law in Toronto for forty years.

There were no new nominations from the membership.

11. Election of new Board Members, Vote:

Moved that the election slate of new members to the Board of the Academy for Lifelong Learning be approved: Sharon Harris; Seconded, Sue Kralik.

Motion passed with 76 people voting in favour, no opposing votes, no abstentions.

12. Meeting Open to the Floor

Sheila Hickie read the following statement:

I learned to my chagrin earlier this year that the Academy had cancelled our connection to the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Toronto. I spoke with Doug Wilson at that time and he mentioned that our bursary had come to an end but didn't seem to know much about our collaboration with SCS. I mentioned to him that the agreement had been negotiated in 2007 by then Academy president, Leah Lambert and that information on this was to be found in the November 2007 newsletter. I had tried to find the original agreement (known as the Letter of Understanding) in our archives but wasn't able to uncover it. The purpose of this Letter, as explained in the newsletter article was to "forge a closer relationship between the two bodies". In other words, it gave us a connection to the University that we felt was a bonus. This kind of agreement is in force with other third age groups in Toronto, such as Ryerson, Innis and Glendon. We could have liaised with them, if indeed we were experiencing problems with SCS, to find out how their relationship was going. I don't believe this was done and I do think it's a shame that we cancelled, especially when our 2019 Minutes show this comment from president Sharon Harris: "The Academy has established a close and supportive relationship with the administration of the School of Continuing Studies."

Doug responded that attempts had been made to reach the Director of SCS to no avail. It would appear that they are no longer interested in cooperating. Huguette added that the Academy had completed its commitment to an endowment of \$35,000 with the last payment of \$5,000 being made in 2018. Further, SCS would reap the interest on that endowment for some years to come. After extensive discussion about the pros and cons of cooperating with SCS the membership voted on the following motion:

Moved that the Board explore the potential for new opportunities for cooperation in relation to the SCS or other body of the University of Toronto: Martin Jones; Seconded, Clare Mian.

Motion passed with 51 in favour, five opposed, and five abstentions

13. Farewell to outgoing President, Sue Kralik

Before closing I would like to thank Doug for his support and leadership during this very challenging year. Doug's calm and reflective style of leadership has served us well, and as a mark of our respect and appreciation, the Board has presented him with a gift that he can continually enjoy. Doug, it is now time for you to put your feet up and enjoy a restful summer. We wish you and all our members good health and relaxation as the summer begins.

14. Adjournment

Motion: that the meeting be adjourned: Doug Wilson, Seconded Clare Mian

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.