

Third Age Learning Burlington

Annual Report

March 9, 2017

3:30 PM

Burlington Art Centre

1333 Lakeshore Rd.

Burlington, ON

Fiscal Year - May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017

Address: PO Box 91551 3023 New St. Burlington, ON L7R 4L6

Website: www.3alb.org

Non- Profit Number: 1857724 Ontario

The following report reflects the activities of the fiscal year 2016 – 2017. Two programs were presented during the course of the year– “Transformational Discoveries in Science and Technology” (Fall 2016) and “Big Questions, Big Ideas” (Winter 2017). These mark the tenth and eleventh series offerings that began in January 2012. The planning for the organization began in March 2011, making this the sixth year of operations. Each series has been well received and fully subscribed and 3ALB is grateful for the support of the members.

Planning for the 2017 – 2018 series is well underway with themes selected and speakers for the Fall 2017 program, “The Mysterious Brain”, either confirmed or contacted. Work continues on the Winter 2018 program.

The following reports will provide a short summary of the activities during the past year and the financial status of the organization.

Program Committee:

Angela Papworth, Chair, Program Committee

The Program Committee recognizes and appreciates the support the membership has shown for our efforts to bring a variety of interesting topics delivered by knowledgeable and engaging speakers. The Committee was very pleased to see the significant support expressed for the “Transformational Discoveries in Science and Technology” series and the “Big Questions, Big Ideas” series. Membership input is critical in shaping future themes and topics. The Fall 2016 membership survey was the most recent effort to approach our membership for direct feedback. Participation was high and timely and appreciated! “The Mysterious Brain” for the Fall 2017 series is a direct response to your feedback.

In addition, action was taken in a number of areas to enhance member’s experience by: improving the sound system, recommending the use of a large size font by the speakers, encouraging the use of

hearing assist devices, raising awareness of fragrance sensitivity and reinforcing cell phone etiquette. The overhead screen was initially raised in response to member's comments and then replaced by a larger screen during the winter series. Use of the microphones when questions are being asked from the floor has improved the experience for all.

Edsel Littlejohn of Cortech, continues to provide superior quality AV technical support for each series. You may have also noticed that Tak Cheung has been enlisted by Edsel to work with him to ensure we have full back up support for all sessions.

The speed of enrollment for the programs has shown your support for Third Age Learning. Each series has been fully subscribed within three days of opening the enrollment. An increasing number of people new to 3ALB, who had been unable to subscribe, have gained access to a series by 'walking in' on the day of the presentation. Fortunately, sufficient seats were available to provide for them.

We express our sincere appreciation for all past and new members of the Program Committee. It is only through their sharing of creative ideas and willingness to take on coordinating roles that we are able to continue to provide you with these high quality series.

Program Committee Members:

Judy Foster

Mairi Fulcher

Sharon Gibbon

Pauline Hardcastle

Gretchen Harris

Judith Johnson

Angela Papworth

Bernice Pedreschi

Les Robb

Marg Tracz

Membership Committee:

As of March, Third Age Learning Burlington has a membership of 324.

Membership is included with the registration fee for a session and continues for a period of one year from the date that the registration fee is received.

It may be of interest to note that 25 Individuals have attended all 11 of the series that have been presented.

Facilities Committee:

Bernice Pedreschi, Chair, Facilities Committee

The Art Gallery of Burlington remained the venue for the presentations and will continue as the site for the foreseeable future. This year, Third Age Learning, Burlington donated a new, larger screen to the Art Gallery for projection of speakers' materials. In addition, a new green laser pointer was purchased which projects more effectively than the previous red pointer.

A special "Thank You" to the following volunteers who welcome our members and distribute the information sheets at each session:

Facilities Committee Members:

Valerie Barnes

Heather Boyd

Bernice Pedreschi

Pat Taylor

Website:

George MacRae, Website Chair

Our website provides information to the general public including:

- details of all previous series and presentations
- links to information related to presentations and other sites
- information about the organization
- online registration for programs and our mailing list
- contact information

Individuals interested in receiving information on upcoming series are encouraged to provide their contact information using the 3ALB.org website and becoming part of the mailing list.

The ability to pay online for a series is available using the Paypal website that allows payment by credit card or through a Paypal account.

Treasurers Report:

Barbara Pickworth, Treasurer

Series 10 and 11 were fully subscribed generating slightly higher revenues than originally budgeted. Walk in proceeds have surpassed the target, tripling the projected numbers and subsequent revenues as of March 2, 2017. The total revenue for 'walk in' participants will need to include those for March 9th before the total can be finalized.

Insurance costs have exceeded the budgeted amount as a result of increased coverage and participation in a group plan.

Cortech Computer Services continued to provide AV services for both the Fall and Winter series. The benefits of the service were considered substantial by the Board, the Program Committee and the speakers and will continue for the 2017 – 2018 series.

Travel costs for speakers were slightly less than projected but this is a difficult cost to project as finalization of speakers occurs after the budget is established.

Overall revenues were up slightly due to 'walk in' participants and expenses were in line with budgeted numbers. The year ended with a small surplus of \$3,000.

Summary:

The Board wishes to thank all the members for their support and participation in Third Age Learning Burlington. Subscriptions continue to support the programs developed by the Program Committee and the response to the individual speakers has been quite positive.

Greater volunteer participation of members in the organization and delivery of the programs remains a challenge and needs to be addressed in the coming months if 3ALB is to remain a viable concern. The mandate to provide stimulating, informative and affordable programs for the 55+ community remains the focus of the organization.

Board Membership for 2016 – 2017

Mairi Fulcher
Austin Knowlton
Bernice Pedreschi
Susan Savage

Penny Hersh
George MacRae
Barbara Pickworth