

## **TAN Update – August 2023**

### **Congratulations on a Significant Milestone**

For decades, later-life learners in the Greater Toronto Area have searched for an organization where they could enjoy a range of lectures from accomplished and lively speakers. For 50 years, thousands of these inquiring minds have found what they sought at Living and Learning in Retirement (LLIR), where fascinating and timely topics are offered up in a friendly, environment that encourages and supports discussion and socialization. Year after year, inspired LLIR members return to the organization, bringing with them like-minded friends and making LLIR popular and membership in demand.

This year LLIR celebrates its 50th anniversary, along with the success of this popular, highly respected later-life learning organization, the dedication and hard work of its volunteers, and the loyalty of its members. The first such organization in Ontario, LLIR has served as a model for many other groups and its leadership has generously helped new later-life learning groups to get established in Toronto and beyond.

This spring, LLIR generously donated \$2000 to TAN to assist its efforts to make later-life learning available to more and more people across Ontario. This gift is very much welcomed and appreciated by TAN. It reflects LLIR's efforts to support more and better learning opportunities for Third Age learners. It also bolsters the volunteer efforts which make all our organizations viable. TAN is grateful for this generous support.

The Third Age Network congratulates Living and Learning in Retirement on this significant anniversary, and on the continued success of an organization which serves as a sterling example of what a third age learning group should be.

Congratulations from the Executive, Board and membership of the Third Age Network, and best wishes for continued growth and success in the years to come.

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### **Making the Transition at Third Age Learning Guelph (TALG)**

TALG had just finished its winter lecture series in March of 2020 when our world entered the Covid lockdown. From a 30-year history of providing live lecture series on the University of Guelph campus at the Arboretum we were faced with two choices. Adapt or shut down. Fortunately, we had some time between March and September to seek alternatives and adjust our plans. The Board struck a working group to explore options and by the end of May that group returned with the option of using an option called “Zoom Webinars” to offer our lectures “online”. An internet search turned up several companies prepared to offer this service and after some evaluation and review we went with Canadian Webinar Solutions, based in Ottawa,

to offer the lecture series in the fall of 2020. The series was well received, our service provider proved to be effective and reliable, and our membership actually increased as people looked for educational stimulation options in the limited Covid opportunities.

By May of 2022 we again reached one of those infamous “tipping points”. Covid vaccination had opened the possibility of “in person” lectures again and how would we address that when we now had an “Online” community who were still separated by distance, health concerns and transportation issues.

Again, the Board struck a working group to poll our membership and explore options. The membership survey came back with a 60% selection for in-person and a 40% vote for remaining online. With that as our mandate the working group decided to explore options for “hybrid” lectures, both streamed and in person. The critical search criteria were:

- 1) A turnkey operation. We didn’t have tech skills to handle live streaming/recording by ourselves.
- 2) A physical site with seating to meet distancing yet still allow for 150+ in-person attendance
- 3) Parking and public transit access
- 4) Financially reasonable to allow us to continue at our current lecture fee schedule

After considering several options the working group signed a lease with Harcourt Memorial United Church in Guelph. We asked them to host us in their sanctuary, provide tech support for live streaming and engage in the behind the scenes work to send out the YouTube link each week to all of our registrants to allow them to either attend in person or on line as they choose,

We are now in our second “semester” of lectures from the church. The two fall lectures proceeded seamlessly thanks to the technical expertise of the church staff and their willingness to flex with us. We have been seeing about a 40% “in person” attendance (about 100 people) and 60% “online” (100-125 screens, 150-175 people) which was close to our survey results. Inclement weather sees movement online and away from travel, but, with everyone receiving the link the day before the lecture, that has proven to be an asset and a value added benefit for our members.

So far all of our lecturers have been “in person” but the technology allows for them to come from “off-site” and be presented on screen in the hall as well as viewed “on screen” for those at home, increasing the distance we can draw speakers from and proving a flexibility we didn’t have on bad weather days.

Our informal reviews for this hybrid approach have been very positive, but we will do a more thorough review at the end of our first full year of offering this approach .

Transitions have proven to be stressful and challenging, but ultimately have pushed us to better service to our membership and richer opportunities. Now to see what the next transition brings.

*Bill Chapman  
TAL Guelph*

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## **Some Bedside Reading**

Below are some articles that may be of general interest. When reading them, note that requirements, legislation, and standard practice do differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. You may wish to resource additional items or seek professional advice.

1. [Establishing a Code of Conduct for Nonprofit Board Members. Lena Eisentein. Board Effect. October 27, 2021](#)
  2. [How to Search for Images You Can \(Legally\) Use For Free. Emma Roth. Theverge.com. August 22, 2022](#)
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## **A Note From Our Treasurer**

### **Review of Financial Statements – Volunteer needed**

We are looking for a volunteer to conduct an informal review of TAN's Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, as called for in our Bylaw # 11.05 b):

- The Directors shall select a qualified individual to conduct an informal review of the annual financial statements prepared by the Treasurer and approve the reviewed annual financial statements.

If you are able to help, or can recommend a volunteer to take on this job, please contact me at [christinelpearce@yahoo.ca](mailto:christinelpearce@yahoo.ca)

*Christine Pearce – Treasurer*

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## **Report from our Membership Chair**

Interested in developing a FAQs section about membership for the TAN website? revamping a start-up kit, or mentoring new groups?

If so, please consider volunteering for the inaugural membership committee. To join, or for more information, please contact me at [louise.pope@sympatico.ca](mailto:louise.pope@sympatico.ca).

*Louise Pope – Membership Chair*

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**Invitation and Notice of Third Age Network Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2023**  
**10 am - Via Zoom**

Following the business portion of the meeting, we will have the pleasure of listening to an address from Dr. John Lord.

**The Power of Aging:  
Awareness, Participation, and Action**

Canadians are living long lives and older adults are growing in numbers. This presentation will outline current evidence and insights on aging. Some of the key approaches that we can use to enhance our health and well-being will be explored, including our attitudes and our relationships. We will reflect on ageism as a barrier to participation and look at personal and collective actions that elders can take to contribute to their communities, including learning, partnerships, and advocacy.

John Lord is a researcher, writer, and seniors' activist. He is currently a leader with Seniors for Social Action Ontario, an advocacy group working to create a more humane, comprehensive community-based elder care system. John is the founder of the Centre for Community Based Research and is well-known for his research and writing related to community support, independent living, and social inclusion. He is the author of several books, including *Pathways to Inclusion* and *Facilitating an Everyday Life*. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Order of Canada. He lives in Kitchener-Waterloo.

You may learn more about Dr. Lord on his website - [www.johnlord.net](http://www.johnlord.net)

Please use the link below to rsvp for your organization if you have not already done so. It is important that each member organization is represented by a voting member so that we are able to efficiently proceed with the business of TAN.

If you are not a TAN voting member but are interested in attending the meeting and listening to our speaker, you may also register using the link below.

Please RSVP no later than September 15th. Once you have registered, you will be provided with the Zoom details.

If you have questions, please reach out to [thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com](mailto:thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com)

[RSVP here please](#)

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## **New Horizons for Seniors Grant**

As you may be aware, applications for this year's New Horizons for Seniors Grant are now being accepted (August 1 - September 14). Included below - fyi - is a link to the information website for the grant in case you need further information.

If you have not applied for this grant before, then the website has some good FAQs along with details of a series of information sessions being held.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/new-horizons-seniors-community-based-2023.html>

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## **Ideas Exchange – June 2023 – Effective Surveys**

We have all had to make some key decisions in the last two years, and many of us are in the process of determining how our organizations will be shaped in the future.

We know that we can't be successful unless we have a clear idea of what our members want / need / expect, but it can be challenging to know exactly how to go about that.

Our default decision is generally to create a survey; but a survey may not be the best tool, and even if it is, we may not know how to implement it effectively.

In June, TAN member groups participated in an Ideas Exchange on creating and implementing effective surveys. You may access the PowerPoint presentation (with speaker's notes) and the minutes from the session by [clicking here to visit our website](#).

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## **Ideas Exchange – July 2023 – Returning to In-Person Sessions**

While many of our organizations are still reaching out to our members through online lectures and workshops, many of us are also working to bring our members back to full-time, in-person sessions. This is proving to be a challenge, however.

At the request of some of you - and as a follow up to the technical group's recent discussions on hybrid - the July Ideas Exchange session provided us with a forum to discuss some of the ways that we can encourage our members to return to meeting in person.

To view the notes from the session which, perhaps not surprisingly, garnered lively discussion, [please click here to access them on the website.](#)

**Do you have a topic that you would like to see covered by an Ideas Exchange? If so, please send us a note at [thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com](mailto:thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com)**

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### **What's on Your Mind?**

One of the great advantages of being part of a network like TAN is the ability to share an idea or question with all members to gain insight, information on 'lessons learned', or advice in a safe environment. Each issue of the TAN update will include a very short question put forward by one of you. Please contribute by sending your answer / input to [thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com](mailto:thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com). The shared information will be of value to us all.

This issue's question is:

**Are you still asking attendees at in-person lectures or workshops to wear masks?**

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If you have something that you would like to contribute or have us include in the TAN Update, please contact us at [thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com](mailto:thirdagenetworkont@gmail.com).

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