

# President's Message

November 2011

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2011-2012

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It's been an incredibly busy fall so far, with palpable energy cruising through our veins, ideas flowing and all kinds of people taking action to help us move forward.

Here are just a few of the things that have been keeping us happily engaged:

- Our membership increased by 45 new members this term thanks in part to our expanded program offerings. Several new people who joined the Activity Groups with the thought that they would check out the Study Group classes once they got their feet wet at SLR. We definitely encourage you to continue with us and put away any fears of giving a presentation. We are incredibly supportive and soon you will discover how much fun it is. As well, it works wonders for the mind. It's definitely better than crossword puzzles.
- Our courses have been well received and are full to almost full to overflowing. This is, of course, due to the very fine work of our Curriculum and Activity Group Committees.

- We have been warmly accommodated at two satellite locations lately, where the hospitality and ambiance have made it not only possible, but easy and inviting to offer more course offerings than we could here at the Mount. We wish to publicly thank both the Village of Glendale Crossing and Longworth Retirement Home for their generosity.

- Our social events have been well subscribed and offer our members an added opportunity to enhance their SLR experience. The Meet and Greet is always a great venue to begin the fall terms. The Mystery Theatre evening at the Marienbad was lots of fun with another great turnout. See the brochure for future events.

- Both the Funding and Facilities Committees have been hard at work preparing to make grant requests, investigating partnerships, and discovering possible new locations for us. What has also been heartwarming and invigorating is that many of you have given these committees ideas and contacts that have helped to inform our next steps. Soon the Facilities Committee will be surveying our membership for even more ideas and possibilities.

- The Winter Brochure is included in this package. We hope that you like the new layout and find the perfect course offering(s) to keep your brain stimulated and your spirit young during the cold, grey days of winter. We always appreciate feedback, so let us know how you find the new layout and the course selections. As well, we always want to hear your ideas about possible new courses. Both committees are already hard at work planning programs for next fall, and your input is welcomed.

### **The Future Takes Form Not Only From Our Dreams, But From Our Roots**

Currently we are looking to our future, but we are also remembering our past – the people, the principles, the values on which SLR was founded. We have a long history of founders – from the original small group that planted the initial seeds, to Westminster College Foundation who took us under their wings, all the way through to our current members who are carving out our next steps.

We want to celebrate our roots, to celebrate the foundation upon which we thrive today, 18 years later. Thus, our First Annual Founder's Day Luncheon has been scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us at this Spencer Hall gathering to honour those who came before us and to draw sustenance from their stories as we continue to unfold our future.

**In closing**, we look forward to seeing you at the Program Preview and course registration on November 16<sup>th</sup>, where all our moderators and peer leaders will try to convince you that their course is really the one you want to take, and where an enjoyable morning will be had by all. It's also your first opportunity to register for the Winter term.

Please think about bringing a friend or two or three. Entice them with fun and refreshments and your good company, as well as a way to stay mentally active.

We hope to see you at the Festive Luncheon on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Highland Country Club. Tickets for this will be available at the Program Preview.

Wishing you all the blessings of the Fall Harvest and the upcoming Holiday Season,

Susan Booth  
President