



Agenda

BALL Annual General Meeting

Thursday May 16, 2024

1. Meeting to be called to order at 9:30 a.m.
 - motion to approve the agenda
2. Report from the Chair and Introduction of the Board
3. Treasurer's Report
 - motion to approve the financial report for the year ending April 30, 2024
 - motion to approve the budget for the year May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025
4. Introduction of the 2025- 2026 Program
5. Election of Incoming Board Members
 - introduction of proposed directors for re-election as contained in the nominating Report
 - call for nominations from the floor
 - motion that nominations be closed and the proposed slate of Directors be elected or re-elected for the specific terms
6. Closing of Business Meeting

BREAK (10 minutes)

7. Introduction of speaker – Walter Knox speaking on Leonard Cohen – Final Songs

Chair's 2024 AGM report

It brings me immense pleasure to reflect on the past year's achievements and extend heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to our success.

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincerest appreciation to each and every volunteer who has dedicated their time, effort, and passion to making our organization thrive. Our volunteers are the backbone of BALL, and without their unwavering commitment, none of our accomplishments would be possible.

I extend a special thanks to our invaluable partners and supporters, without whom our endeavors would lack the necessary resources and infrastructure. Our coffee providers at REACH have kept us energized and refreshed throughout our lectures, ensuring that our attendees are well taken care of. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to Bryan Mombourquette and Doug Downey for their indispensable tech support, enabling us to deliver seamless and engaging lectures.

Reflecting on the 2023-24 season, I am delighted to report that it has been a resounding success, drawing in hundreds of eager learners to our diverse range of lectures. Each lecture series has been meticulously curated to provide enriching and thought-provoking experiences for our members. From exploring justice through a Canadian lens to delving into music traditions from around the world, our programs have sparked curiosity, fostered dialogue, and inspired lifelong learning.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated Board members, whose tireless efforts have been instrumental in shaping the direction and success of our organization:

Carol Mair, Chair of the Program Planning Committee, for her diligent work in developing engaging programs and securing captivating speakers for future years.

Diane McIntyre, Chair of the Promotion and Marketing Committee, for her strategic initiatives in spreading awareness of our learning opportunities and engaging with the community through various channels.

Carol Fraser, Chair of the Social Committee, for ensuring that our attendees are well-nourished and comfortable during our lectures and events.

Jim Martin, Website Chair, for his meticulous upkeep of our online presence and timely dissemination of information to our members.

Cynthia Lemon, Vice Chair, for her steadfast support in ensuring smooth operations and governance within our organization.

Mark Lemon, Treasurer, for his exemplary management of our finances and stewardship of our resources.

Ann Downs Emms and Vivian McCaffrey, Registrars, for their efficient handling of registrations and ticketing, ensuring seamless attendance at our events.

Edie Roberts, Secretary, for her thorough record-keeping and administrative support, ensuring the smooth functioning of our meetings and governance.

Three people are leaving our Board and I want to recognize and express our deepest appreciation for their dedication and for their significant contributions to our organization.

Firstly, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Bev Wilkins, Chair of the Social Committee. She has been the driving force behind ensuring that our members are greeted with warm hospitality and refreshments at each of our lectures and events. Her attention to detail and unwavering commitment to creating a welcoming atmosphere have greatly enriched our members' experiences. Thank you, Bev, for your tireless efforts in ensuring that our gatherings are not only educational but also enjoyable.

Next, I want to recognize the invaluable contributions of Gena Van Dorp our Facilities Coordinator. She has been the backbone of our logistical operations, meticulously coordinating venue bookings, and seating arrangements. Her organizational skills and foresight have been instrumental in the smooth functioning of our events over the years. Thank you, Gena, for your dedication to ensuring that our lectures run smoothly and efficiently.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to our esteemed Member at Large Tom Burri. While his role may not have been as visibly prominent as others, his presence and input in our Board meetings have been invaluable. His perspectives have enriched our discussions and decision-making processes. Thank you, Tom, for your commitment to our organization's growth and development.

While we will miss Bev, Gena and Tom's presence in our day-to-day operations, we are grateful for the lasting impact they have made on our organization.

As this is my last meeting as Chair, I also want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of this incredible organization. Over the past 3 years, it has been an honor to work alongside each of you in our shared mission of fostering learning and intellectual growth in our community.

Together, we've created an environment where curiosity thrives, where ideas are explored, and where individuals come together to expand their horizons. From thought-provoking lectures to engaging discussions, every moment has been a testament to the dedication and passion of our members.

I am thrilled to welcome Cynthia Lemon as our new Chair. She brings her own unique perspective, expertise, and enthusiasm to the role, and I have no doubt that she will lead BALL with grace, integrity, and vision. With Cynthia at the helm, I am confident that the future of BALL is bright and promising.

To our new Chair, I offer my full support and encouragement. May you find this journey as rewarding and fulfilling as I have, and may you continue to inspire and empower our members to embrace lifelong learning.

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to BALL.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Kanduth – Chair

Nomination Report

As is required by Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning, Article VI Section 1 of the Constitution states “the Board will be comprised of a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 Directors.” The Policy and Procedures Manual states that “Directors may only be elected or appointed to the board for a maximum of 6 consecutive years. “ A director’s term of office may be extended by a further 2 years in the event that there are vacant director positions.

Candidates for nomination are as follows for the 2024 -2025 year:

Ann Downs Emms	1 st year of 3 rd term
Carol Fraser	2 nd year of 1 st term
Rosanne Gallinger	1 st year of 1 st term
Bob Kanduth	1 st year of 3 rd term
Cynthia Lemon	2 nd year of 1 st term
Mark Lemon	2 nd year of 1 st term
Diane MacIntyre	2 nd year of 1 st term
Carol Mair	1 st year of 3 rd term
Jim Martin	2 nd year of 1 st term
Edie Roberts	2 nd year of 1 st term

There will be a call for further nominations at the May 16, 2024 Annual General Meeting. It is important that all vacancies be filled to support a fully working board and to sustain Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning into future years.

Respectfully submitted
Cynthia Lemon
Vice-Chair

Program Planning Committee, (PPC) AGM report 2023-2024

We Did It!

2023-2024 was a great success in part because of you, the members, who stepped up and took advantage of the amazing lectures the Programming Committee organized for this past year. It was rewarding to see so many coming in person. Almost like the good 'ole days

Before 'ringing in the new year', there are some goodbyes and hellos that need acknowledging:

Stepping aside from active duty is Diane Palm (who will, thankfully still collate the evaluations) and John Van Dorp. It's hoped both will return in due course.

I gratefully announce 3 new committee members: Dr. Murray McQuigge, Peter Reesor, Don Brough and Sandy MacGibbon. Thank you gents for hitting the road running by helping to build the 2024-25 lectures series. Joan Irvine, Leslie Garnett, Diane MacIntyre and Jim Martin continue to be the back bone of the PPC. My many thanks.

Finally, a momentous farewell is due to one of BALL's longstanding, hard-working volunteers. She has stood as Chair of the PPC, then as Board Chair and then returned to the PPC to keep me on track. Cheryl Kryzaniwsky, we thank you for devotion and wisdom for all those years. You will be missed!

2024-2025 Series Line Up

Series One Sept 12 - Oct 17/ 2024

Education in our Rapidly Changing World - Coordinators: Joan, Leslie, Diane P,

This series will take an in depth look at our public education system. It opens with Annie Kidder suggesting that the Public Education system could be the solution to social, economic and environmental ills. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Education and a discussion of Global Competencies will be matched with a presentation from our local Forest School and Outdoor Education groups.

Our popular Brian Carwana will grace the stage again discussing the history of education and its links to religion. Another return engagement is George Hart with the importance of the "fun of mathematics"

Series Two Oct 24- Dec 5, 2024 Coordinators, Cheryl K and Carol M

Critical Thinking: The Essentials to Informed Decision-making and Problem-solving

How do we 'think' when we think? Dr. Christopher DiCarlo will guide us through critical thinking exercises for six lectures. He will open with the ABC's of critical thinking and

use this method to examine important issues as Good vs Evil, Abortion, Artificial Intelligence, Euthanasia and Conspiracy Theories.

Series Three Jan 9 - Feb 13, 2025 VIMEO ONLY

Women, Peace and Security: The Global Quest for Dignity and Inclusion

Coordinators Peter Reesor, Don Brough, Joan, Jim

The opening lecture for this series will be presented by Jacqueline O'Neill, appointed by the Prime Minister in 2019 as Canada's first Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security. The gripping topics that the speakers will tackle include: victimization by war and religion, domestic violence and sexual abuse, security implications of poverty, political intolerance, institutional and gender bias, catastrophic consequences of climate change on family sustainability. This series will be a powerful and enlightening series as we learn from these inspirational women and their mission for change.

Series Four Feb 27- April 3, 2025 Coordinator: Cheryl K

Addicted to Print: Reflections on the Joys of Reading

Dr. Gary Draper will be known by many members from a previous, very successful presentation. In this 6 lecture series, Gary asks 'what can you learn when you examine your own history as a reader, from your earliest texts to what you read last week?' All books change us in some way, some more than others. Gary will bring to light how we learn more about ourselves and about the world we live in through what we read. Novels, Short stories, Poetry will all be explored as well as the value of reading to escape.

Submitted by Carol Mair
Chair, Program Planning Committee

Registrar Final Report

The 2023-2024 Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning lecture series had another successful year. We continued to see strong ticket sales affirming the choices of relevant and interesting topics that BALL has presented to the community. Three series were offered both in person and online. The winter series was limited to online viewing through Vimeo out of concern for potential inclement weather that could create safety issues for speakers and audience members. Many members attended the fall and spring series at the Bayshore Community Centre in Owen Sound. In person attendance was higher this year.

The most popular lecture series were in the fall; Justice Through a Canadian Lens and the Religion The Big Questions series. Ticket sales were also strong for the Ethnomusicology lecture series. The Hope and Inspiration online lecture series and the special lecture had good ticket sales.

Throughout the past year, we estimate that approximately half of the ticket purchasers attended the lecture in person during the fall and spring series. The numbers varied with each individual lecture.

BALL offered members the opportunity to bring a guest for free to two lectures in October and November. The purpose was to promote and advertise the organization to new people in the community and invite them to consider becoming BALL members and purchase a series ticket. Approximately 30 people attended each free lecture. Guests were asked to provide contact information and they were entered into the customer database. This allowed the guests to receive correspondence from BALL on future lecture series. Some guests were returning BALL members and a handful purchased a series ticket.

Members are comfortable with the purchase of tickets online. We experienced fewer requests for assistance from individuals having difficulty logging in to the Vimeo sessions or receiving emails. A small number of members experiencing computer difficulties purchased tickets for a lecture series in person at the registration desk. We appreciate members' support when resolving their questions and problems.

Submitted by,
Ann Downs Emms
Vivian McCaffrey
Co Registrars for Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning

Ball Promotions Summary 2023-2024

Many of the print promotional materials (ie rack cards and flyers) were made by my predecessor Ann Magner for the 2023-2024 year. I began promotions in September 2023 and have been trying to keep up the good work.

On-Line Shopify Email Campaign

The on-line Shopify e-mail campaign is by far the most effective way that we reach our membership to purchase tickets for all of our series.

For each lecture series I put together an informational e-poster to outline the speaker(s), as well as the date, place, time and the opportunity to purchase tickets for the lecture. I send out the e-blast 2 weeks prior, 1 week prior and the week of the scheduled lecture. The same promotion has been done for the AGM.

Other Campaigns

I put together a print poster, had it printed and distributed it to local libraries and various establishments to promote 'Treasures of the Bruce' by Stu Collier.

I contacted Claire McCormack to do an on air free interview with Bob Kanduth(Chair) for the 2023-2024 Lecture Series.

I contacted Bayshore Broadcasting to do a paid ad campaign to promote both 'Hope and Inspiration in Grey Bruce' and 'Ethnomusicology'. They aired a taped interview with Bob Kanduth (Chair) regarding the upcoming series and a combination of both short and longer ads that were aired for a week. I didn't find that this was a very effective way to promote BALL and couldn't see a discernable rise in ticket sales.

Facebook

After each lecture I've been posting a clip of the lecture series and posting it online. We have 45 followers but I plan to boost posts and hopefully increase our following online.

Preparation for 2024-2025 Season

I will create and print 400 rack cards and 25 posters and distribute them to libraries and other establishments. This year I'll be making rack cards for the fall and winter series on one rack card and make a completely new set of rack cards for the winter and spring series. Similarly, I'll make a poster for the fall and winter series and a separate poster for the winter and fall series. I plan to have these rack cards available at the AGM for our membership to have take-home information of our next season.

If you have any questions or concerns, I'd be happy to answer them and if you have any suggestions for future campaigns, I'd love to hear them.

Diane MacIntyre

BALL Web Committee Annual Report, May 2024

The major change to our online operation this year was the switch to Vimeo as our platform for live streaming and replaying lectures. Replays are on a Vimeo "Showcase", available on demand to subscribers to a series from 1-3 days after a lecture until a month after the last lecture of a series. Members buying a ticket to a series are sent the Livestream and Replay video links in the confirmation email sent by Shopify. Bryan Mombourquette is contracted to set up the Vimeo events and send the links to the web committee in time to test and include them in confirmation emails when a series first goes on sale.

The major part of the web committee's work continues to be maintaining the website. This includes:

- announcements on the homepage, such as current series available for purchase, emergency changes such as a shift from in-person to online due to weather, and events such as the AGM and lunch
- FAQs. This year a separate “Viewing Online” page was created to deal with solutions to the problems such as Vimeo pausing and lagging on a few member’s computers. The main solution was found to be having the viewer reduce the quality setting of the Vimeo stream to lower the required bandwidth while still maintaining good quality audio and visual.
- setting up “products” (series tickets, gift cards or other events such as this year’s AGM lunch registration) on Shopify.
- maintaining the “Get Tickets” which has links to current products, and the new “Buy/Redeem Gift Cards” page.
- creating the Lectures page which has, for each series, the calendar, overall descriptions with graphics and links to details
- creating the Details page for each lecture of each series, including the lecture descriptions, lecturer bio and photo and links to supplementary material. Much of this info is gleaned from Jotforms supplied by the Program Planning Committee. It has been suggested that the coordinator(s) of each series consolidate the final version of all this information, which may be on several Jotforms and elsewhere, into a single Word document so the web committee knows that all the info has been edited and finalized.
- Creating a free product so that members can register for the AGM lunch to give us an estimate of numbers for ordering food
- Creation of graphics for each series for use on the Lectures and Details pages, Products and rack cards and posters

This year BALL Gift Cards were introduced. These were set up in Shopify, so that a person wanting to buy tickets to a series can use a Gift Card code to pay for some or all of the purchase. Gift cards are purchased online like any other BALL product, and the code is sent by the Gift Card purchaser as a gift to whomever they want. The cards were an attempt to boost sales, but there has been very little uptake.

The web committee, along with registrars, continues to answer requests for help through our info@bluewaterlearns.com email, helping members purchase tickets, find lost links and deal with Vimeo streaming problems. These are often last minute just as a series starts. The possibility of streaming replays on demand has eased the pressure a bit, since the member no longer has only one chance to see a replay.

The committee continues to set up the Ziggpoll evaluations of each lecture, the results of which are reviewed by the PPC. This year we also created a comprehensive survey sent to our whole mailing list. About 150 members replied, giving us valuable data on preferences for how the lectures should be delivered (the majority in favour of the current hybrid in-person/online model), where people watch from, and what lecture

topics are preferred. The Program Planning Committee has taken note of a summary of new suggestions.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Martin

BALL Social Committee Report for 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 BALL year saw the continuation of the partnership with The REACH Centre Grey Bruce to provide the coffee and tea service during all of our in-person lectures. REACH has been reliable and diligent in their duties and BALL has been served in a friendly and efficient manner. REACH participants look forward to providing this service in our community, and along with the assistance of BALL members Rosanne Gallinger, Julie Rice and myself, we have been able to provide the service in a timely manner. We look forward to continuing our mutually beneficial partnership in the up-coming 2024-2025 lecture series.

Heat'n Eat Meal Co. of Shallow Lake, the caterer of a light lunch at the AGM on Thursday, May 16, has been confirmed.

Bev Wilkins, past chair of the Social Committee, was invaluable in assisting me in my new role this past year. Thank you to Bev.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Fraser
Chair of the Social Committee

BALL Facilities Report 2023-24 season

We appreciate the Owen Sound Bayshore facility and its staff which have again provided an accessible and convenient place for BALL participants to gather on Thursday mornings from September to May, sharing in learning and fellowship. Through the years, many of us have established patterns from where we park, enter, and sit in the large hall. We check in for the first lecture of each series, get our ticket for the lanyard, greet the door, and choose our seat. By the time we arrive, the Tech Guys (Bryan and Doug) have set up the audio and videography equipment, microphones and computer programs are adjusted. The REACH team are busy in the kitchen preparing coffee and treats. The bathrooms are clean. In warm weather, the door to the patio can be open during the coffee break.

Series 3 is Vimeo only, and the other series can also be enjoyed from "anywhere" if you have the link. This has allowed our presentation "facility" to sometimes be a remote link in a speaker's home or office, and our reception to be at the Bayshore OR our home OR wherever we are with internet access. Thanks to Bryan Mombourquette for the times his home studio hosted the speakers for Series 3.

I have enjoyed being the coordinator for Owen Sound City Hall, the Bayshore staff and the BALL Board for four years. That included the last in-person only season with over 300 people attending, and then COVID with its online only conditions and limitations. Those memories make us appreciate the hybrid seasons since!

We look forward to continuing at the Bayshore in 2024-25 and beyond.

Gena Van Dorp
BALL Facilities Coordinator