

ALL News

Something to say?

We want to hear from you! Do you have comments on this issue or ideas for future issues? Drop us a line. Do you like to write? Are you an illustrator or cartoonist who could contribute to future issues? Tell us who you are and, if you wish, attach a sample of your work. Email us at allinfo@acadiu.ca or call 1-800-565-6568. Submissions published are subject to the discretion of the ALL Board and available space. ALL News is available online at all.acadiu.ca in a printable format.

Acadia University Lifelong Learning

Volume 2, December 2008

Cape Breton expedition finds rare plant species

by Peter Eaton, Ruth Newell and Peter Romkey

The ALL Centre joined forces with Acadia's K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre in July to send a scientific expedition to the highlands of Cape Breton. The aim was to look for rare species of plants, some of which are not found elsewhere in eastern North America.

The expedition consisted of seven ALL members – Jan Baldwin, Peter Eaton, Blair Embree, Carol Embree, Brian Jones, Carol Orr and Gisela Westphalen – and four scientists variously affiliated with the Irving Centre, Nova Scotia Environment and the Nova Scotia Museum. They established a base camp near the village of Cape North and travelled into the mountains and along the local brooks and ravines of the highlands looking for botanical specimens. ALL participants helped the scientists catalogue and preserve collected specimens.

In spite of rain, thunderstorms and biting flies, the expedition succeeded in documenting several rare and endangered species of flowering plants and lichens. One particularly exciting find by Frances Anderson, Nova Scotia Museum, was a species of lichen, *Leptogium intermedium*, which is thought to represent the first record for north-eastern North America. Several lichen species were also found that represent new species for Nova Scotia.

“A great deal remains to be discovered in the Cape Breton Highlands with respect to its biodiversity,” said the Irving Centre’s Ruth Newell. “Working with the Acadia Lifelong Learning group was an absolute pleasure. Their endless enthusiasm and able assistance in the field made the expedition a successful as well as a truly memorable venture.”

“Projects like this take the ALL vision to another level,” said Carol Embree. “It is learning and growing, with nature as the classroom.”



The expedition braved rain, thunder and biting flies

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ALL News

Member spotlight

by Rachel Cooper

Shirl and Jerry Sawler are educators with a difference. They are heading to Cuba in late February to volunteer as tutors of English. Meanwhile they have been studying Spanish this autumn in Nancy Kidston's new ALL course, Spanish for Travellers.

Volunteering through ESL Cuba Volunteer (www.cubavolunteer.com), the Sawlers will pay all their own travel expenses. Once in Cuba, they will tutor students at the University of Havana in the morning and school children in the afternoon.

"The university students are already proficient in English. They'll need help with grammar and pronunciation," Jerry says. "The school children are just beginning to learn."



Shirl and Jerry Sawler

Shirl works as an educational assistant on a substitute basis. Jerry, a retired teacher and administrator, still substitute teaches regularly.

This will be the first time the Sawlers have volunteered in Cuba. "We're in Cuba to help the local people," Shirl says, "but we're also there to learn."

The Sawlers are optimistic about involving local students in collecting school supplies to take to Cuba and writing letters to Cuban students. The response so far has been enthusiastic, they say.

Can't make a seminar?

Please let us know if you've signed up for a seminar and can't attend. If there's a wait list, you'll be helping another ALL member, because we'll give them your spot. Even if there isn't a wait list you'll be helping the environment – we won't be printing more hand-outs than we need. Please phone Susanne at 585-1857 or email us at allinfo@acadiu.ca.

Visit our website

Check out Open Acadia's new website at www.openacadia.ca. To find out what's new in Acadia Lifelong Learning go to the drop-down menu under Non-Credit Studies and click on Lifelong Learning (50+) or go directly to all.acadiu.ca.

ALL on call

It's snowing, and you wonder if your course is cancelled. Or you need to know if a classroom has changed. For course updates, cancellations, room changes and ALL announcements call:

902-585-1434 press 1
or
1-800-565-6568 press 1

This information line is a recorded message of ALL events only and will be updated daily Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Green tips for a white landscape

by Rachel Cooper

Hans Albarda's seminar on Renewable Energy (May 5th) seems to be generating its own energy. More than 20 people have registered already.

The seminar will cover the hot topics of wind, solar, hydro and geothermal energy and how governments, industries and individuals are embracing them.



ALL News polled a sampling of ALL members to see what they're doing to reduce their own environmental footprint. Besides familiar – and important – strategies such as shopping locally, using energy-efficient light bulbs, lowering the thermostat and reducing/reusing/recycling, ALL members came up with a long list of ways to tread more lightly.

Here are a few ALL members' ideas for you to try this winter:

- plan your travel to combine trips; look for chances to carpool
- keep cloth grocery bags in your car – they'll be handy when you shop
- use a cloth coffee filter
- turn off your computer when you're not using it.

See page 4 for more green tips from ALL members.

Winter 2009 Schedule-at-a-glance

Courses

<i>Classical Musics of the World</i> Ken Shorley 6 Mondays, January 26, 4:30 pm
<i>Contemporary Issues in Economics</i> Maurice Tugwell 6 Mondays, January 26, 10:00 am
<i>Fiction Writing</i> Susan Haley 8 Tuesdays, January 20, 9:00 am
<i>Jane Austen's Maturity</i> Anthony Harding 8 Tuesdays, January 20, 1:30 pm
<i>Modern Art: A fantastic journey</i> Donna Jean-Louis Livingston 8 Thursdays, February 26, 1:00 pm
<i>Painting with Acrylics</i> Twila Robar-DeCoste 8 Wednesdays, January 28, 10:00 am
<i>Pilates</i> Sherry Swanburg 16 Fridays, January 16, 9:00 am
<i>Understanding the Tarot</i> Jeanette Auger 6 Thursdays, January 29, 1:00 pm

Seminars/Outings

<i>Politics and the Arts in the Twentieth Century</i> Gerald Parker Tuesday February 10, 10:00 am
<i>Foods of the World</i> Julie Snair Tuesday February 17, 11:30 am
<i>Heritage Series</i> Sharon Oliver, Dave Whitman, Merritt Gibson, Ken Bezanson 4 Wednesdays, February 18, 4:30 pm
<i>Geological Hikes in Kings County</i> Ron Buckley 3 Tuesdays, March 3, 6:30 pm
<i>Bad Blows and Big Floods in the Annapolis Valley: A history</i> David Duke Tuesday March 17, 10:00 am
<i>Cross Country Skiing</i> Gisela Westphalen TBA—register by January 31.
<i>Snowshoeing</i> Scott Hennigar TBA—register by January 31.

Spring 2009 Schedule-at-a-glance

<i>Drawing and Sketching</i> Twila Robar-DeCoste 4 Wednesdays, April 8, 10:00 am
<i>Jesus in the Media Today</i> Craig Evans 4 Thursdays, April 9, 4:30 pm
<i>Life Writing—Telling our own stories</i> Dianne MacPhee 8 Thursdays, April 2, 6:30 pm
<i>Music and Spirituality</i> Bob McCarthy 4 Tuesdays, April 28, 6:30 pm
<i>Town and Gown: The development of Wolfville as seen through its architecture</i> John Whidden and Pat Townsend 4 Wednesdays, May 20, 4:30 pm
Register for courses, seminars and outings by calling 800-565-6568 or email allinfo@acadiau.ca .

<i>Planning a Hospice for Kings County</i> Jeanette Auger Tuesday April 7, 10:00 am
<i>Current Issues in Bioethics</i> Nancy Burbidge Monday April 20, 1:30 pm
<i>Renewable Energy</i> Hans Albarda Tuesday May 5, 10:00 am
<i>Preserving Your Personal Archives</i> Ruth Legge Wednesday May 6, 2:00 pm
<i>Blue Beach Walk and Fossil Museum Tour</i> Sherman Williams Thursday May 21, 1:15 pm
<i>Chimney Swifts of Wolfville</i> Jim Wolford Wednesday June 3, 8:30 pm

Acadia University Lifelong Learning
Open Acadia
Wolfville, Nova Scotia Canada

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More green tips....

When you use the oven, cook several items at a time.

Heat with an efficient woodstove, and cook soups and stews on top.

Use local beeswax candles.

Use a clothesline – and if you wear snowshoes in winter, you won't have to reach so far up to hang the clothes.

In poor weather, dry laundry indoors on a rack.

Buy clothes at Frenchy's or consignment shops.

Repair rather than replace items that break.

Use the backs of junk-mail paper for memos or puzzles.

Install energy-efficient dimmers.

Help collect and dispose of batteries in your neighbourhood.

Brown Bag Lunches

Every Thursday at noon, bring your lunch and a healthy curiosity to the Fountain Learning Commons (upstairs). You'll enjoy exciting topics and speakers and lively company. Check out our website or the ALL on call line for weekly speakers and location confirmation.

ALL News

Open Acadia opens doors to learning

by Gary Hepburn, Director, Open Acadia

What's in a name? As it turns out, quite a lot. In the spring of 2008, Open Acadia became the new name for the Division of Continuing and Distance Education. The move to "Open" signified a new commitment to providing access to Acadia programming and removing barriers to learning – barriers such as geographic location, time constraints, age, and language – by using technology, different learning environments, and courses that appeal to learners of all ages.

Open Acadia's programming includes credit courses offered online or off site, as well as outside the regular academic year.

Language training is provided for students who meet Acadia's academic requirements but need to improve their language proficiency. A Teaching English as a Second Language program has also started, and language programs will be offered online in early 2009.

Community programs encompass non-credit courses and professional development programs, such as Summer Academies for students age seven to 18 and the ALL program for learners age 50 and up.

The recent partnership between ALL and the Associated Alumni, to reach the nearly 4,000 alumni in Kings and Hants counties, strengthens Open Acadia's connection with Acadia alumni and their families.

Visit openacadia.ca to learn more.

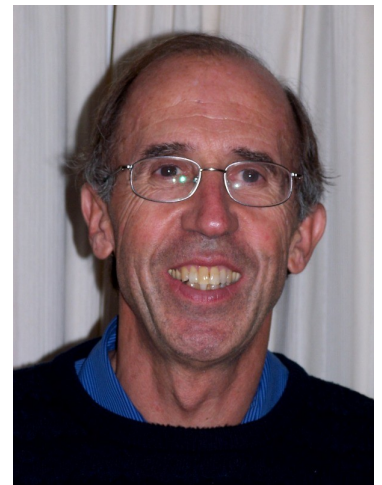
Instructor spotlight

by Anthony Harding

"The most significant series of economic events since 1929" – that's how Maurice Tugwell describes the past few months. Global markets have risen and fallen with bewildering speed. Thanks to integrated global markets and the Internet, what happened in China this morning affects Toronto this afternoon. There could be no better time to learn about Contemporary Issues in Economics, the focus of his winter-session ALL course.

This course will bring some common sense to the subject, and (no doubt) lively discussion. Dr. Tugwell emphasizes that economics shouldn't just be about the numbers. The challenge that most excites him now, he says, is working out how economics can take account of "environmental loss." Trade cannot be equitable as long as different countries have widely differing environmental standards.

Dr. Tugwell is not content with tracking global trade from his computer. Later next year, he embarks on his second tour of duty on a sailing ship. This time, the "Class Afloat" voyage begins in Brazil and ends in Lunenburg. We're often told to "think globally": it's a principle that Maurice Tugwell has clearly taken to heart.



Maurice Tugwell