

**To: UVRA Board**

**Subject: Elder Academy Annual Report 2019 -2020**

**From: On behalf of Elder Academy Programming Committee: Chairperson John Gunton**

**Date: May, 2020**

The UVRA EA Programming Committee met on June 7, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Jane Birbeck. Members of the committee are Jane Birbeck, David Docherty, John Gunton, Richard Chappell, Lou Schmidt and Peggy Tully. Barry Ming joined the committee in March 2020. All members of the committee act in a volunteer capacity and meet on a monthly basis throughout the academic year. In November 2019, John Gunton became the Acting Chairperson of the committee with the absence of Jane Birbeck and in May 2020, John Gunton was voted to the position of full Chairperson.

The purpose of the committee is to plan, organize and administer a program of lectures on topics of general public interest and made available to UVRA members and the public at large. Lectures are scheduled on Saturdays as appropriate and they are held in UVic lecture facilities between 10am and noon. Those registering to attend a given lecture are charged \$5 per event to cover administrative and organizational expenses.

The planning period, which is the subject of this report, is the Academic Year September 2019 to June 2020. The committee conceives a theme for each month and undertakes a search for topics and speakers relevant to the chosen theme. The total number of lectures planned for the period is 25. In December, the committee conducted a survey of the membership and the general public to receive input on the program. UVRA Advisory Committee also provided programming feedback and ideas in February 2020.

The schedule of themes for the programming period is as follows:

September: "Activities to Enhance Your Quality of Life as You Age" (Registrations 60)

October: "Canadian Politics: Past Present and Future" (Registrations 82)

November: "Complementary Medicine; Expanding Your Choices" (Registrations 67)

January: "Sex, Drugs & Alcohol: Use & Overuse" (Registrations 25)

January 30<sup>th</sup> "Keynote Address Living Without Oil" (Registrations 187)

February: "Living Without Oil Part 1" (Registrations 110)

March: "Living Without Oil Part 2" (Registrations 92) (Partially postponed)

April: Nil

May: "Climate Change Anxiety: Causes, Consequences, Solutions and Costs" (postponed)

June: "Nutrition 2" (postponed)

In January 2020 the committee started planning for the 2020-2021 Academic Year and a list of potential themes and topics was discussed.

In early March the committee made the decision to suspend the lecture series for the balance of the 2019-2020 Academic Year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Registrants and speakers were advised of the postponement and a tentative plan was agreed wherein the March and May series

would be re-scheduled starting in October 2020 pending approval by UVic and lecture theatre availability. Clearly there is significant uncertainty surrounding implementing this plan and the committee is prepared to react once guidance details become known.

I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to all committee members for their hard work and dedication for making Elder Academy such a success and to UVRA for their ongoing support. On behalf of the committee I wish to thank all the speakers who have given of their time and talents voluntarily. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Lou Schmidt who toils relentlessly in administration and contributes significantly to the success of the program with energy and ideas. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic), both faculty members and administrative staff, in making the February and March series "Living Without Oil" a success. Their involvement enabled the video-recording of the lectures and posting of the videos on the community website. Greg Mulligan (EPHE) is also acknowledged for generously assisting in posting the PowerPoint slides used in many of the presentations to the community website.

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/elderacademy/>

We have been advised that making the videos and slides available in this way serves as a useful teaching aid.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Gunton', written in a cursive style.

John Gunton,  
Chairman