

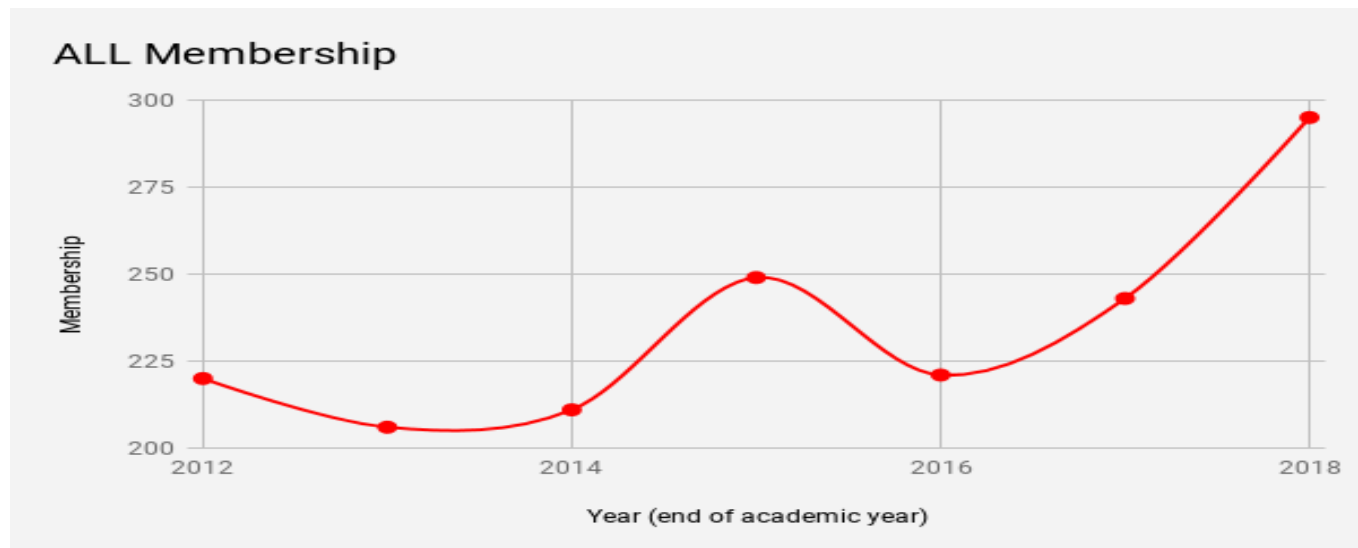
Acadia Lifelong Learning (ALL) Annual Report - September 2018

“Review of the year past and looking forward to the year ahead”

The past year has been an exciting time of growth for the ALL program. The ALL Advisory Board has worked together to create a varied and dynamic program for you. We have also been looking forward to consider potential goals to further improve, strengthen and expand the ALL program in the future. This report summarizes our efforts.

1. Membership Growth

Membership grew from 243 to 295 members, a 21% increase.



2. Courses and seminars

A wide variety of programming options were available this year. Ten courses were presented in the Fall term (two were cancelled due to low enrollment) and eleven courses in the Winter term. These were augmented with six other offerings throughout the year, including: a seminar/field trip, a weekend workshop, a pre-screening lecture, and three other seminars.

3. Course Reviews

Four ALL members kindly agreed to provide reviews of a selection of the courses presented this year.

- a. Kudos to ALL and to moderator Amy Savoury for the highly rewarding “*Wines of Nova Scotia*” course. The outstanding range of experts who shared their enthusiasm for different approaches to cultivation gave the fully engaged participants a superb overview of our region’s burgeoning industry. I particularly liked the format – five evening sessions, which included a behind-the-scenes site visit to NSCC. Recommended!
Sara Lee Lewis, Wolfville, NS
- b. The ALL course “*Blue Beach and Joggins Fossil Cliffs*” offered by geologist, Elisabeth Kusters sparked my interest in fossils. She began at Acadia with a lecture to familiarize us with the concept of fossils, what they are, where to find them, and the ages of fossils in Nova Scotia. The following day, 25 excited adults met at the Blue Beach parking lot to begin our fossil field trip. On reaching the beach, we all quickly found fossils. We asked so many questions about them, it was difficult for Elisabeth to proceed. Thankfully, her geologist colleague, Martin Gibling from Halifax, had joined Elisabeth to help manage our enthusiastic group. Eventually we made our way to the fossils of a prehistoric forest floor, with holes where ancient trees once stood. It was an incredible sight! Back at the parking lot a few hours later, we were weary, but happy. We felt like newly-minted palaeontologists comparing notes of our findings.
Dale MacArthur, New Minas, NS

- c. *“Not Your High School Shakespeare”* was offered by ALL this spring with Dr. Anthony Harding at the helm. We had lots of fun with “Henry II” and “As You Like It” - watching videos, getting “inside information” from Anthony, participating in spirited discussions, and playing out parts during the class. In doing this, we got to know one another and the time passed too quickly.
An added bonus was a personal invitation from Anthony to attend a lecture at the Al Whittle Theatre prior to a screening of the National Theatre Live presentation of *“Macbeth”*. Anthony gave a wonderful explanation of the play, emphasizing the damaging physical and psychological effects of seeking power for its own sake, particularly appropriate in the current political climate. We were then joined by other viewers and enjoyed the production. This was a great course and I now (finally) have an understanding of Shakespeare!
Jean Casey, Wolfville, NS
- d. I thoroughly enjoy all of the courses that Dr. Jennifer MacDonald teaches. This year’s ALL course was *“From Anglo-Saxon to Norman England.”* We time travelled from the world of King Edgar, the Peaceable in 959 through the succession of invasions from the Vikings, Danes, and Normans from the Continent, with their attendant court, government, and church intrigues and crises to 1135 when Henry I died causing a succession crisis. Stay tuned for the sequel course in 2019 when Jennifer leads us from the Norman to Plantagenet England with greedy relatives, power marriages, civil wars, rebellions, etc.
Susan Markham-Starr, Wolfville, NS

4. ALL Advisory Board

- Current Standing Board Members: Heather McNally (Chair), Helen Harper (Secretary), Tony Berger, Frank Lussing, and Alison Scott-Butler.
- Change in Board Membership: addition of Susan Markham-Starr; resignation of Jim Prime, Ilze Andzans, and Susan Haley.
- We are always open to welcoming new Advisory Board members. Our Operating Guidelines allow up to twelve Board members. Consider joining the vibrant and engaged ALL Advisory Board to have input into creating an excellent program for the future. (<https://all.acadiau.ca/board-members.html>)

5. Lunchtime Learning Talks (previously Brown Bag Lunch)

- Most talks in the 2017-18 year took place in the beautiful Acadia Art Gallery. Thanks to curator Dr. Laurie Dalton for use of this welcoming space.
- There was an increase in participation, with an average of 50 people for each session

6. Visioning Workshop

- The ALL Advisory Board held a one-day workshop on January 18, 2018. The purpose of the workshop was to identify and explore opportunities for improving and possibly expanding the ALL program to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of current and future ALL members.
- Six of the eight ALL Advisory Board members were able to participate. As ALL is accountable to Open Acadia, Dr. Jeff Banks (Director) and Jessica Bradley (Coordinator of Non-Credit programs) were invited. They both attended and participated in this planning exercise.
- Carole Donaldson, a Wolfville resident with extensive experience in facilitation, generously volunteered her time and skills to facilitate our ALL Visioning Workshop.
- The Workshop focused on six themes with key expectations identified for each theme.

a. Courses and Events

This will continue to be the focus of the ALL Advisory Board. The goal is for programming to continue to be informative and stimulating; proposal requests, submissions, approvals and postings, will be timely and aligned with Acadia University’s academic calendar dates.

- Proposals are now submitted online for Advisory Board review which improves ease of planning.
- Criteria for courses and events were created and are posted on the website.
 - i. Courses proposals must be initially approved by the ALL Board and final approval is given at the discretion of the Director of Open Acadia;
 - ii. Courses should be of high quality;
 - iii. Courses should not be commercial in nature (i.e. soliciting business);
 - iv. Courses should not duplicate local events.

b. Governance

ALL’s Operating Guidelines will be regularly updated in ways that will support its vision and mission; ALL’s non-profit structure and organization will be reviewed and strengthened where opportunities exist; other funding sources will be explored; and, ALL’s governance will reflect the highest standards.

c. Mentoring

ALL will explore mentoring opportunities for its members to share their expertise with Acadia University students.

d. Partnerships and Engagement

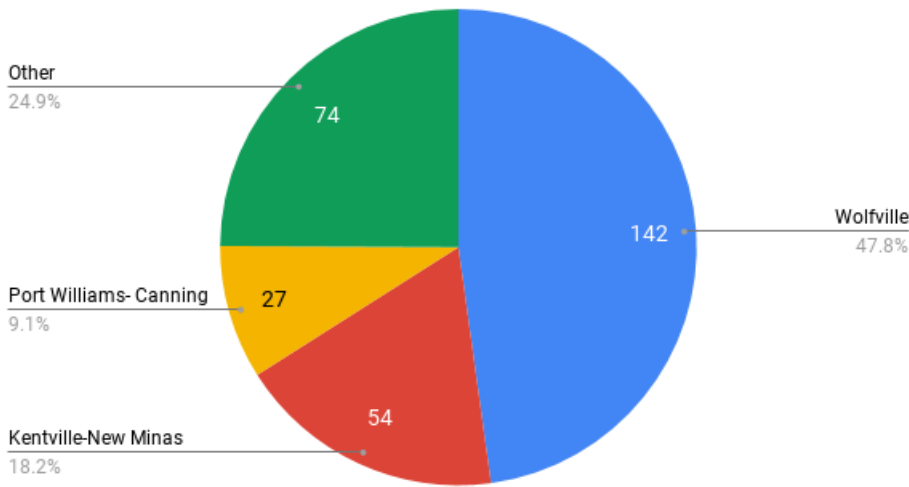
Partnership opportunities which foster mutual benefits with other community cultural and educational organizations will be explored. New active partnerships are already underway with introductory lectures to occur prior to:

- i. Selected concerts in the Acadia Performing Arts Series
- ii. Just Us! Coffee and National Theatre Live Broadcasts

e. Decentralization

Review of the ALL statistics revealed a Wolfville centered membership. Opportunities for expanding ALL’s presence beyond Wolfville will be explored.

ALL Membership Domicile



f. Marketing

ALL will develop a comprehensive and active marketing program for all of its activities.

- Possible next steps for each theme and their respective expectations have been identified and have been formally endorsed by the ALL Advisory Board. Preliminary follow-up on specific tasks has begun. A formal action plan identifying particular tasks and outcomes and individual Board member responsibilities for each will be finalized this fall. ALL members with skills and interest for leading in the development in any of these areas identified would be very welcome as additional ALL Advisory Board members.
- Realization of these goals will require both the support of the ALL membership and additional funding sources. At present, ALL receives funds in the form of membership and course registration fees. These help to defray the costs of operating ALL’s activities, but the bulk of costs are covered by Open Acadia.

The ALL Advisory Board is very excited about the continued and enhanced role the ALL program serves within the wider Wolfville community. We look forward to continuing this work with our membership to explore opportunities that will honour the mission of the ALL program:

“To enable our community to thrive by sharing knowledge in the spirit of lifelong learning.”