

**Seniors College of Prince Edward Island  
President's Report for the 2017-18  
Annual General Meeting  
November 24, 2018**

Seniors College continues to provide a broad range and varied program of courses for our membership entire membership. Learning never stops and learning is always fun. Growing from a modest beginning of three courses to over 105 courses in three counties this year, Seniors College continues to thrive.

I would like to sincerely thank our current volunteer Board of Directors of Seniors College and our coordinators, who continue to make this possible on a yearly basis. This year our coordinator of 4 years, Martha Ellis, stepped down in August. We are duly indebted to Martha for her dedication and determination in growing our organization over the past 4 years. We are also grateful for the hard work and dedication given to us by interim coordinator, Ann Ramsay since September. You have been an invaluable asset to our start up this fall, Ann.

I also want to thank perhaps our most unsung volunteers, the many skilled facilitators, who so generously continue to share their knowledge and expertise with our members. These facilitators make it possible for Seniors College to provide such a wide variety of exciting courses.

In April of 2018 the college worked on the development of a new Strategic Plan.. The 2018-2021 SCPE strategic plan outlines the organization's direction and guides decision-making and activities over the next four years (2018-2021). This strategic plan includes information from many sources of evidence and builds on achievements from the previous plan. SCPE is supported by four strong pillars which are core to the institution.

These pillars include:

- volunteers;
- a commitment to lifelong learning
- social engagement opportunities for SCPE members
- the value for money that SCPE provides to its members

Using this strategic plan over the next four years, coupled with a clear set of actions identified in a business plan, the College can strengthen its four core pillars, ensuring the sustainability of the College and allowing for its growth. The new Strategic Plan also outlines key actions for be carried out under each of these pillars over the next 4 years. Many of these are specific to individual committees which are in the process of prioritizing those actions to incorporate in the coming year.

A special thank you goes to Janet Ellis and Pat MacAulay for arranging and facilitation of the Strategic Planning process for the board.

Each year we continue to maintain our community partnerships and forge new ones.

- Our partnership continues with UPEI and the Province of PEI.
- Early in the year we met with Dr Michael Corman to provide input in to the Seniors Action Plan which was released in the summer of 2018.
- A meeting was held with Minister Tina Mundy, Minister of Family and Human Services. This meeting provided us with the opportunity to provide the minister with a better understanding of the work of Seniors College.
- Thanks to the extensive work by Jake Baird we submitted a grant application to the Seniors Secretariat and were successful in obtaining the portion of that grant that will enable 10 low income seniors to participate in Seniors College courses next year.
- Partnerships formed with the communities of Winsloe, Brackley and Stratford resulting in the availability of additional class at no cost to Senior's College.
- A presentation was made to the Charlottetown Royalty Rotary in October which enabled many members of the business community to gain an understanding of the mandate and mission of Seniors College.

**Programs:**

- Over 100 courses of varying lengths. 20% new each year many of these on current topics.
- Physical exercise courses continue to be very interesting to our members..hiking, pilates, yoga , zumba , fitness, nordic pole walking, line dancing etc.
- Computer, bridge, art, history, decorating and cooking continue to be popular.
- Members comment that they enjoy having “short courses “ in the mix.”
- Some people request more intense “academic” courses

We are always seeking suggestions for courses and new facilitators who offer their time and talents

### **Marketing/Communications**

Thanks you to Jennifer Acton for the very efficient and creative work in getting the information out on our courses.

### **Web site:**

Our on-line registration system has functioned very well over the past five years but as with all technology continued upgrades and maintenance is a constant need. The biggest challenge continues to be at registration time when 400 plus users are accessing the system at the same time. Each year a registration de-brief is held with our service provider to identify the problems and hopefully improve the system for the following year.

Our system is not only for member course registration but it is an important administrative tool. The system enhances communication with members and provides helpful membership information useful in planning for the future.

- Our membership numbers for 2017- 18 totalled 492 (Queens: 417, Kings: 15,Prince: 61)

### **Finance**

The Financial Committee under the leadership of Mary Brodersen can be commended for their work in this area.

### **Challenges:**

I would like to thank the board for their willingness to step up and support take on the operational aspects of Seniors College last summer. It was truly a challenge that was met and surpassed by a committed and dedicated board.