

March 1, 2024



In March 2022, the Canadian government declared March as Irish Heritage Month. According to the 2016 Canadian census, 13.4% of the population claimed partial or full Irish ancestry and approximately 4.6 million Canadians can trace their ancestry back to Ireland. Wishing all SLR members of Irish

ancestry a Happy St. Patrick's Day;

***“May your troubles be less and your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness come through your door,”***

Mark your Calendars For details check our website at www.slrlondon.com



Come join us at the SLR Coffee Socials: Fridays at 1:30 pm one week and Saturdays at 10:00 am the next week. Enjoy the laughter, opinions and facts shared by your peers in SLR. Each chat will have a host to help keep us moving along and help with any practical issues.



The SLR Computer Clinic is starting up again for the Spring term. Sessions will be held Wednesdays March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 2 PM in the coach house with students from **Western's "Seniors in IT"** club. This is available to all paid up members of SLR. For an appointment, please email slr.computer.clinic@gmail.com.



SLR will be hosting our **Spring Session Open House** at Grosvenor Lodge on April 4th 2024 from 10 to 12. We are looking forward to the release of our **Spring Course Brochure on March 28th**. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to drop by for an information session and to speak with Course Leaders



SLR's 30th Annual General Meeting will be held on April 18th at Siloam United Church at 1:00 pm. The Board will present our financial status along with information on what we have accomplished and our plans going forward. Nominations for board membership for the coming year will be submitted for your approval. There is no cost for this event. Refreshments and socializing time will also be available.



PORT STANLEY THEATRE – “THE BEAVER CLUB”
Thursday May 23, 2:00 p.m. Port Stanley Theatre Cost: \$48
They’re baaack!!! Barb Scheffler’s 2023 smash hit returns to the stage.



SLR FALL PROGRAM PREVIEW AND REGISTRATION
(ONLINE), Friday, June 7, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Registration opens at 3 p.m. following the Preview



SLR’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY on Friday June 14th, 1:00-4:00pm at Grosvenor Lodge. Come join us as we celebrate our past and present and look forward to a great future. No Cost

MOMENT IN HISTORY #2 - CELEBRATING 30 YEARS of SLR

In the beginning days of SLR, topics for courses were selected by the organizers. The SLR Archives have records of the next stage of course selection – the use of champions.

When a SLR member had an idea for a course, the ‘champion’ completed a form providing a draft title, description, list of potential topics and why they were qualified to lead the course they were recommending. The submissions were vetted by the Curriculum Committee and decisions were made. Most fall and winter sessions in 1996 and 1997 had ten or eleven study courses per term.

Two hundred members were enrolled in the 1997 Fall Session Courses. Topics in these years included Eccentrics in Life and Literature, Ontario’s Place in the Future of the Great Lakes, Sculpture: Art of Space, The Musical in American Cinema, The Animal in Fiction – Ferocious, Friendly or Fantastical, The Many Facets of Humour, Ageing with Grace, & How to Understand and Enjoy Opera.

Today the two Curriculum Committees led by Susan Pepper and Lynn Hamilton meet several times per year to discuss and decide on the course selections we enjoy - study and discussion Courses as well as the activity groups.

The Committees are grateful to the members for any suggestions of course topics and to those who volunteer/agree to lead courses. The Committees make every effort to provide a variety of topics to appeal to the membership.

Courses are the backbone of SLR and finding courses to appeal to enough members to make it viable is the challenge. Some have waiting lists on day one of registration, some take longer to fill, and some must be cancelled because of lack of interest.

We are grateful to the dedicated members of the Curriculum Committees who find the catchy course titles, create the appealing descriptions and lists of topics, recruit course leaders and schedule the courses so we can learn from each other.



Celebrating 30 Years of SLR

BRENDA JACKSON is well known to many current and past members of SLR. Involved from the very beginning, she held nearly every position possible for SLR on the Board and Executive Council; managed the office; was our first registrar; facilitated many courses; entertained us with jokes at social events; always welcomed everyone and greeted them by name; for years made sure the refreshments were ready and replenished; and at one time even baked the cookies! Just some of the ways she has served us.

In early March, Phyllis Brady and Susan Booth met with Brenda to chat about her many years of commitment to SLR. Brenda is in her 94th year and remembers fondly that SLR started as her ‘retirement project’ and quickly became her life. She began when SLR was first operationalized at Westminster College, was highly involved with and after the move to Mount St Joseph, and then again when we moved to Grosvenor Lodge.

Susan remembers that it was when we were at the Mount, that new health regulations began and Brenda willingly stayed even longer each day to ensure the coffee cups were sanitized after every use. When Phyllis joined SLR in 2017, Brenda was enjoying working out of her new, spacious office in the Coach House, as well as leading courses. Brenda was the heart and soul of SLR for all the years she served and has been dearly missed these last several years.

During our meeting, Brenda laughingly acknowledged that one of her many skills was as a “manipulator” – but only in the kindest way. She saw the skills and potential in others and was able to convince them to become involved in the every-day operations, thus continually enriching our community.

Brenda now lives in a retirement home and is (regretfully) unable to take SLR courses, but stays mentally active doing puzzles in the LFPRESS (her favourite is Sudoku), playing Euchre and learning to play bridge. For her physical health, she attends many of the recreational activities provided at the home. She says she took the ‘Let’s Talk About Death and Dying’ course at least 3 times, but has been far too busy with SLR and now her new life to die.

Brenda’s passion for SLR is matched only by her love for the Blue Jays.

The photo is Brenda with a prized possession - an autographed baseball by Jose Bautista - given to her by her friends at SLR in 2015 when another of her milestones was celebrated with a surprise garden party at Grosvenor Lodge. Thank you sincerely, Brenda, for all you have contributed to SLR through your many long years of volunteer service of the highest quality.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

AS A MEMBER-RUN ORGANIZATION, SLR relies totally on the ideas, skills, and donated time of our VOLUNTEERS to help us grow and flourish. Including articles in the SLR newsletter is one of the ways the Board is emphasizing the importance of individual contributions to SLR. This month we are recognizing –



Sandy Kechnie

Sandy joined SLR in January 2018. He first became involved, though, in the Fall of 2017. His partner, Liz, was asked if she would lead the in-line dancing at the SLR Hootenanny dance. On the night of the dance, Sandy went along as her "Roadie" and had a ball. He liked the peer learning premise behind the group, so he joined in January 2018 and took the course on Photo Editing led by Jeff

Keenor. Since then, he has taken both study and discussion courses every year, and been a course leader for a some of them.

Around 2018 Sandy was approached by Susan Booth and asked if he would learn the registration system as a backup for James Baker. He agreed and learned the ropes from the masters (James and Brenda Jackson). When James was no longer able to continue in the role, it fell to Sandy. He has been happily filling that role ever since and plans to continue into the future.

"I have been extremely gratified by experiences at SLR. I enjoy my position as registrar and love taking courses, especially study courses, where I can challenge myself to learn new things and share them with others". Sandy

IN MEMORIAM: Dan Hyttenrauch

Many of you will remember Dan from the writing courses he taught for us, and the many other courses he attended. We were notified of Dan's passing by his wife, Anna, with the request that we let members know of his passing.



"With extreme sorrow, we announce the sudden, but peaceful passing of Dan (Danny Albert) Hyttenrauch. Dan was survived by his wife and children as well as a large extended family.

Dan was a top-notch researcher in the field of library science, experienced in writing grant proposals for both paid and volunteer positions he held over the years. Storytelling, puppeteering and holding our household together were the things he loved most in life. One regret was that he had hoped to live to see the Stanley Cup raised once again in Toronto. Cremation has occurred. A celebration of Dan's life will be at a later date to be announced. If desired, donations to Canadian Blood Services or to the London Regional Cancer Centre in Dan's memory would be greatly appreciated.

Dan was an active member of SLR for many years and formed many friendships. Dan so enjoyed moderating some of the courses that he had helped create, like "Food Glorious Food", and a memoir writing class, as well as many others. Dan will be remembered for his ready smile and wonderful laughter. He was very supportive and complimentary about everyone's work and encouraged all of us. He will be missed.

DIVERSITY IN SLR



Greetings SLR Members,

While SLR's membership is steadily increasing, we have not yet reached pre-pandemic numbers. We believe there are many seniors in London's population who are not aware of SLR and its many interesting courses and groups.

A small committee was formed to work on one of the goals of our current Strategic Plan, which is to increase our membership, both in numbers and diversity.

We value our members' input and propose a one-time brainstorming meeting to discuss and receive your thoughts on this important goal. Please let me know if you can meet with the Committee in March - or, if you are unable to meet and have some ideas or suggestions. You can contact me at bradyphyllis@gmail.com

Thank you, Phyllis Brady, on behalf of the Diversity Strategy Committee

SLR SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR SUGGESTIONS

This week's Founders' Day Luncheon at the Highland Golf & Country Club was a lovely event, as always, with good food and efficient service. Unfortunately, it may be the last social event that SLR is able to hold there, due to added venue rental costs.

This is something we are encountering more often in these days of rising costs. We are seeking information from you, the members who are our most valuable resource, to assist us in finding new event venues. Do you belong to an organization that has a venue for group functions, such as luncheons, and that provides catering services or allows outside caterers to be used? Or perhaps you have knowledge of potential venues from events you have attended? These places would need to be within London or within a very short distance outside of the city.

All suggestions are welcomed and our social committee will follow up on any leads.

Please send your ideas to srlonsocial@gmail.com.

Thank you, Diana Lloyd

THE SLR LIBRARY



The SLR Library has recently received an extraordinary, and large, collection of Irish Poetry. Thank you to the anonymous donor. However, it would not be fair to give the full collection shelf space, since, in our limited allocated space, we must provide books for a wide variety of interest.

Is there anyone who would like to look at this collection and perhaps absorb most of it into their own shelves?

Currently, a random few are shelved under "Non-Fiction", while most are in the box marked "Donations".

Alternatively, does anyone know if the University would be interested?

Please get in touch with Jean.Surry@gmail.com

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

PREVIOUS RIDDLES

What building has the most stories? **Library**

What starts with T, ends with T, and has T in it? **Teapot**

If you throw a blue stone into the Red Sea, what will it become? **Wet**

NEW RIDDLES

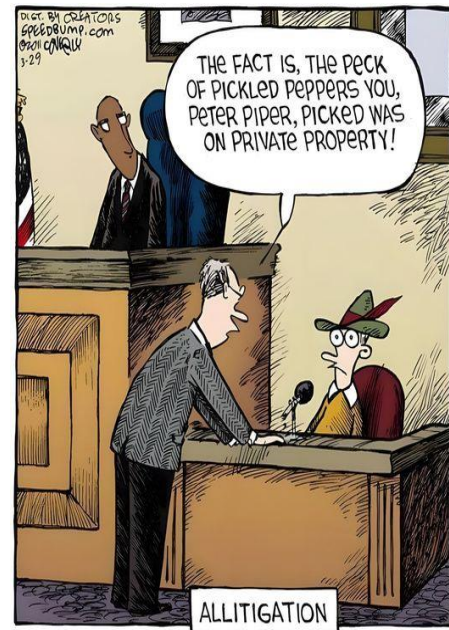
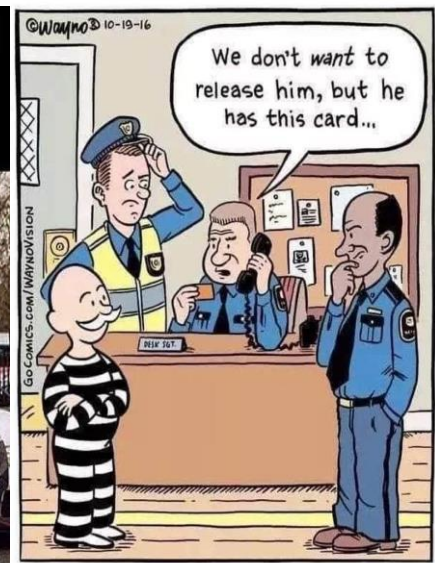
When is the top of a mountain similar to a savings account?

What has a head and a tail but no body?

What contains three "e"s but contains only one letter?



Officer: "Do you know why I've stopped you today sir?"
 Carl: "Because I let you "



Happy Birthday to all of our members born in March. May you all have the Luck of the Irish whether you are Irish or not!

Margaret Cowan

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