



## Staying Connected

April 1 2025

**Umbrellas Up,  
Canada**



Spring is the season that most often breaks our hearts," says a meteorologist at The Weather Network. "We have that expectation of the spring and the beautiful picturesque weather, beautiful sunshine and temperatures into the 20s, but the reality is, it's a season that can bring everything from snow to hail and cold, cold lake breezes." We do it every year, Canada. The calendar flips to spring and the country immediately awaits the chirping birds, budding blossoms, and early trips to the beach. When in fact, more often than not, [Canada spends the entire spring actually waiting for it to be...spring](#). *So lets hope things get better, when we finally break into some nicer spring weather as we head toward May.*

### EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO ON SLR'S CALENDAR



Please join us on Zoom and connect with other members of SLR. There is no set topic just sharing of ideas, events and experiences. Dates for April include: Fri April 4, 1:30, Sat April 12, 10:00, Friday April 18, 1:30 and Sat April 26, 10:00



**2025 ANNUAL MEETING Thursday, April 17, 1:00 p.m.** Siloam United Church 1240 Fanshawe Park Road East; No cost. Join us at our annual meeting where you will be able to enjoy coffee and cookies as you chat with fellow SLR members, receive updates about the current operation of and future hopes for SLR, and elect the new Board of Directors. There will be ample opportunity to ask your questions and share your thoughts



**SPRING OPEN HOUSE AND IN-PERSON  
REGISTRATION (Grosvenor Lodge) Tuesday, April  
8th, 10:00-12:00 Noon**

If you wish to register in person and talk with the course leaders, then come to the Open House



The last **Computer Clinic** (until October) will be on:  
Tuesday, **April 1st, at 1:30** in the Coach House.

**Appreciation Event at 2:10 pm on April 1st** in the  
Coach House.

This is a call to all those who have appreciated the help of these talented students, from last November to today. The student club members will be given Certificates of Appreciation; and they would surely enjoy re-visiting with you, while you share some simple refreshments together. Burton Moon and Jean Surry

**SPRING 2025 BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION FORM.**

This Spring's brochure is, once again, full of interesting, intriguing, and enjoyable study, discussion, activity and interest groups, and fun social events. Class choices are in-person, online, hybrid, or off-site.

On-line registration began on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. and continues until classes begin the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Registration is easily done on our website - it's like buying anything online. Step-by-step instructions are found on our website (<https://srlondon.com/>) under the Help/Zoom tab. OR, you can get a neighbour to help you. The site is totally secure.

Alternatively, you can register online and then mail in your cheque (2<sup>nd</sup> best way) OR fill out the registration form, attach your fee, and mail both (knowing you could lose a spot if the course is already full).

As usual, all registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis. We are looking forward to seeing and learning with you in this Spring.

*Please freely pass the brochure onto friends and family.*

Given that the election has now been called, SLR is pleased to add one more discussion course to the Spring Brochure. Election 2025 will be 3 weeks long and completely dedicated to the Federal Election

## **ELECTION 2025 – THE ISSUES, RESULTS, AND IMPLICATIONS**

12 Members Maximum In-Person (Dining Room)

Tuesdays 9:30-11:15 a.m.

April 22-May 6 (3 sessions)

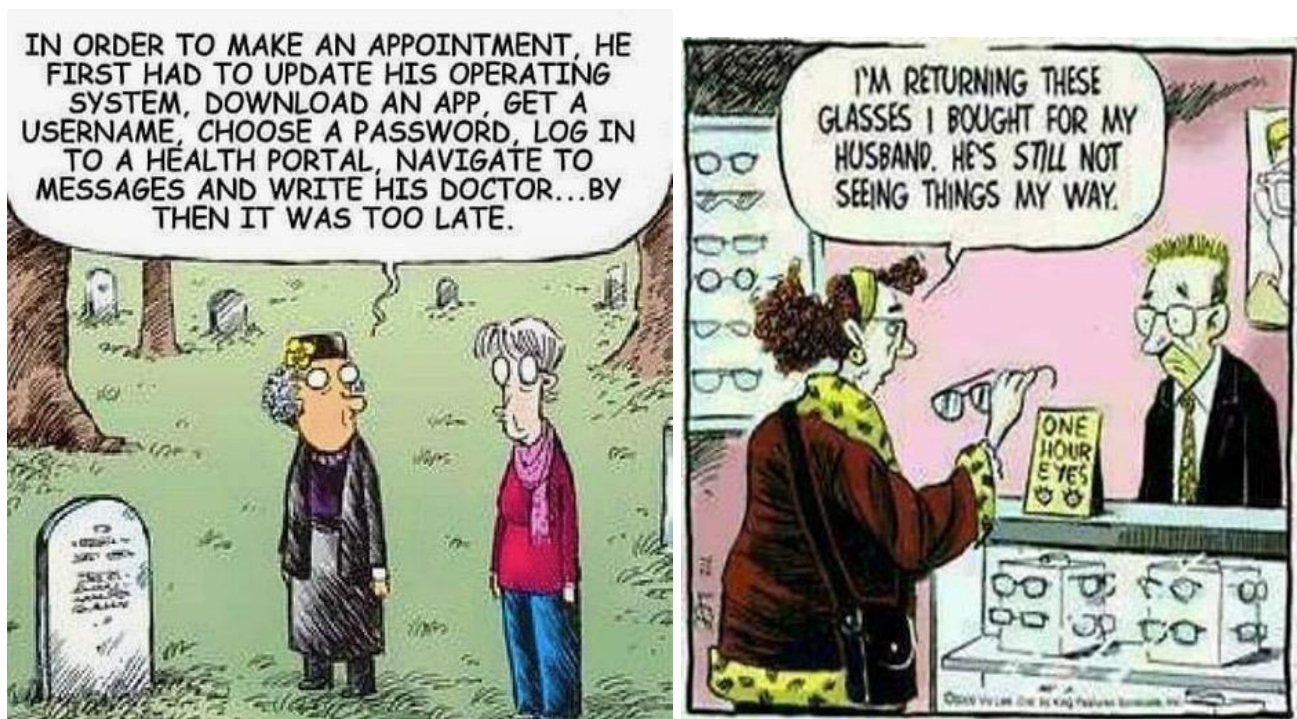
Course Leaders:

Susan Booth, Jeff Keenor

Fee: \$25

We are on the brink of a pivotal moment in our history. We have a new Prime Minister who lacks traditional political experience; we are witnessing a dramatic reversal in poll numbers; a neighbour has started a tariff war and threatened to annex us; and patriotism has resurged. Our typically calm and democratic nation is facing unprecedented upheaval amidst the chaos and uncertainty. Who will navigate us through these turbulent waters? Together, we will assess the positions of the political parties, analyze the election results, and explore the national implications.

## **LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE**





## NOTE FROM NATIONAL FILM BOARD COURSE

Canada's National Film Board has created an extraordinary legacy, that continues to grow and "to interpret Canada to Canadians and to other nations".

The members of the recent NFB Film course at SLR contributed excellent choices and gave interesting introductions to the films. The discussions were insightful and well done. The films included topics from Sports and Leisure, Aging, the Arts and Political History. Diana and Jean who led this group finished off with many favourites over the years.

One of the films was *Paddle to the Sea*, 1966. Based on Holling C. Holling's book of the same name. **Paddle to the Sea** is Bill Mason's film adaptation of the classic tale of an Indigenous boy who sets out to carve a man and a canoe. Calling the man "Paddle to the Sea," he sets his carving down on a frozen stream to await spring's arrival. The film follows the adventures that befall the canoe on its long odyssey from Lake Superior to the sea. Diana sent this picture for all of us to enjoy. A great place to visit on your next Canadian holiday.



My son-in-law Gordon in Nipigon where Bill Mason started his film "Paddle To the Sea". The town is obviously very proud of the story and have a tourist attraction for visitors to enjoy.

## ARE WE TOO WARY OF AN APRIL FOOL'S PRANK?

[BBC](#)

<https://www.bbc.com > news > articles>

Reading through the papers today, you might find one or two April Fool's Day stories. But they do not have the same presence they once had.

The rise of social media has ushered in a "different kind of relationship" between readers and the press, says Stuart Allan, professor of journalism and communication at Cardiff University.

"We are enmeshed in an era of 'fake news' and disinformation, where matters of trust are at the forefront of editors' minds," he tells the BBC.

The decline of April Fool's Day news stories comes against "a backdrop of growing scepticism about news in general," Prof Allan adds, "where playing with journalistic credibility may actually prove damaging".

Jim Waterson, who edits news outlet London Centric, agrees. "Publishing fake news to purposefully trick readers and then saying it's all a joke doesn't really work well when you spend the rest of the year banging on about how much trusted facts matter," he says. "But the biggest crime against journalism is that very few newspaper April Fool's stories are remotely funny."

The global political climate, with Donald Trump's re-election to the US presidency, has also had an impact.

"If you've got world leaders who are only too happy to dismiss anything factual they don't like as 'fake news', why would you give them the ammunition of literal fake news?" Mr Waterson asks.

Social media also makes it easy to take a news story out of context. People used to read their news in a newspaper. They'd be aware, on 1 April, that all of the news stories were published that day. The tell-tale date was at the top of the page. Now, readers can share online news stories on social media days, months or even years after they were first published. Many people share news articles without reading a single word of them, [according to a Columbia University study](#). So are they likely to read the publication date?

Then there is the rise of generative AI, which has been widely used in the spread of misinformation in recent years. In a world where AI-generated images can appear almost real, the media's role of separating fact from fiction has never been more important.

April Fool's stories serve the entertainment function of journalism, but not truth or accuracy, says Dr Bina Ogbemor, a lecturer in journalism studies at Sheffield University. In some cases, these stories could "backfire", make some readers angry, and hamper a media organisation's credibility, she tells the BBC.

"It's still something that makes people laugh," she says, adding she thinks news websites should add very clear disclaimers if they do choose to run them.

Though news publishers have taken a step back, the April Fool's tradition is alive and well on social media. But it is brands, not broadcasters, that are leading the charge. Each year, many of them post announcements for new products or promotions that are slightly too ridiculous to be genuine.

Tesco once announced it would be trialling trampoline-inspired bouncy aisles in its supermarkets.

But brands could find themselves in hot water for playing tricks on newspapers without letting them in on the joke. In late March 2021, Volkswagen claimed it was [changing its name to "Voltswagen"](#) in a nod to electric vehicles.

Dozens of publications had to publish corrections when it was revealed to have been an April Fool's prank sent to the media early.

Based on current trends, it is unlikely we will see an April Fool's hoax on the scale of Panorama's spaghetti report any time soon. "The Spaghetti Harvest story of 1957 landed with such a splash because of the very limited news brand choice in those days," says Richard Thomas, media professor at Swansea University.

Thanks to the wider range of news sources available instantly on the internet, "the joke is dead before it even takes its first breath", he adds. "So the days when the country's most trusted broadcaster and news source can playfully tease its audience on such a scale that we are remembering it almost 70 years later are over. "And - all sentiments about how news should be honest and truthful aside - in a world where happy news is often at a premium, that does seem a shame, somehow."