

**“I remember when...”– A little ECD history
written by Sally Norcott**

ECD’s Fall 2003 launch would not have been possible without the amazing first program created by June Morin and her team. I hadn’t even heard about ElderCollege until June twisted my arm after their Spring 2004 semester and dragged me to a meeting. I was hooked.



While planning for Fall 2004, I suggested they add computer lessons. I ended up teaching them myself that year in the old McKee centre.

In the Spring of 2005, I ‘snagged’ Wanda Green to do a Beginners Computer class in the Boys and Girls Employment Training Centre in Ladner while I looked after Level 2. Wanda had 13 people in that class, 5 more than the max we allow now! Then I begged her to do a special class for Microsoft Word. My mother-in-law was a student – she loved it. Technology programs grew steadily – today it’s all about laptops and tablets.

Going back to my first registration experience in the Fall of 2004, they still did it all on handwritten sheets of paper for a master list and strips of 1”x3” in different colours for each person to write a name on for a specific class! When the strips of paper a certain colour were gone – that class was filled and no more could sign up!! I couldn’t believe it. Nobody was using computers! Somebody introduced me to Al Roberts and together we came up with an electronic database using Microsoft Access. It kept track of our membership and assigned registrants to classes resulting in a snazzy class list printout along with historical statistics, membership lists, reports templates and a very simple financial account. We gave Al and his wife, Bernice, Lifetime Honorary Memberships. Those were the good old days.

ElderCollege Delta membership grew considerably from 106 in the first semester to a high of 370 when we first went ‘online’. The number of courses increased from eight in 2003 to more than 30 in the Spring of 2020.

Then wham – the Pandemic hit and it was tough to keep going. However – Zoom proved a Godsend! Thanks to Paulette and her hard-working and innovative Program Planning team, Phoenix rose from the ashes!!

**“I remember when...”– A little ECD history
written by June Morin**

It’s interesting that ElderCollege Delta is going through a new beginning. Way back in 2003, under the strict leadership of Ann Claggett, ElderCollege was taking shape with very tentative beginnings. In June that year, Ann decided enough with the talk and on with the action. There was going to be a program for September – final decision! I naively offered to head up programs while Della Henderson and Sue Anderson took on communications before joining me in programs. Beverley Mason was our enthusiastic supporter/mentor from KinVillage.



We worked in typical teacher fashion, identifying the subjects needed and then finding volunteer presenters to fill the need. Betty Tanney, fresh from back East and with great gusto, offered suggestions such as jazz and opera with John Harris. David Hunt created enthusiasm for Shakespeare and poetry with his novel approach of getting people involved – acting out characters or doing poetry readings. There was a little bit of something in each category – history, science, arts, and lifestyle – including a course we called “Pastries and Politics”. One amusing incident occurred when I approached a UBC professor to volunteer. When she asked to see the campus, I had to inform her that we were lucky to find a room. She wasn't prepared to rough it.

Those first few years were very busy for our little group. Program planning entailed booking presenters, begging for locations and acting as hosts. As it caught on, we were able to get more active volunteers and financial support; so, when Sally arrived, we were pulled into the computer age. The 15 plus years I spent volunteering for ECD was one of the best and rewarding projects of my life.

We would welcome your memories of ECD which you can email to: eldercollegedelta@gmail.com.