



# LONDON COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

BOX 2317, CITY CENTRE, 380 WELLINGTON ST., LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 5N9

<http://lcae.luhc.org>

Serving Adult Learners since 1945

## Minutes of LCAE Meeting March 22, 2005

**PRESENT:** Sharon Collins (UWO – Continuing Ed.), Dianne Rumney (TVDSB), Margaret Maciejewski (LPL), Carmen Sprovieri, Colleen Pickering (Fanshawe), Donna Smith (Literacy Network), Donna Moore (UWO—Centre for New Students), Tom Crouch (Nokee Kwe), Teeba Alsafar (Employment Services Elgin), Christine Glen (LCRC), Lara Leitch, Ron Hansen (UWO—Faculty of Education), David Radcliffe (Society for Learning in Retirement), May Hey, Patrick Smith (RCSB)

### 1. Welcome:

- Donna Moore chaired the meeting and began by welcoming everyone and thanking Ann Everatt for hosting the meeting at Fanshawe's new Galleria campus. Ann was asked to bring greetings from Fanshawe.
- Ann welcomed everyone and invited people to tour the facilities.

### 2. Minute Promotions:

No minute promotions were submitted in writing.

### 3. Presentation: Ron Hansen, Faculty of Education “Missing the Boat”

Based on six weeks of field study in a Norwegian Folk School, Professor Hansen is convinced our secondary schools in Ontario are “missing the boat.” Folk schools, an integral part of the school system in Scandinavian countries, use a problem-centred curriculum that is socially and culturally anchored, rather than government prescribed. Dating back one hundred and fifty years, these residential institutions utilize a non-competitive, non-academic learning environment to help young adults make the transition into adulthood. Individual student and instructor journal excerpts testify to what young people miss in traditional schools and what, in a folk school, helps them find purpose and direction.

Notes from Ron's presentation:

Our Ontario schools:

-Ontario secondary school now primarily a university preparation program

-T.S. Eliot: “where is the wisdom in knowledge? Where is the knowledge in information?”

-schools are giving text based knowledge

-math not originally taught through books—e.g. needed to know how to measure angles to be able to build archways in buildings; now math is taught by trying to simulate a practical problem

-knowledge has become abstracted

-we’re missing the experience part of the educational experience and how knowledge can be practically applied

-we have a reverence for institutionalized education

-we don’t have a planned economy were there is matching between education and workforce needs

Folk Schools:

-folk schools have existed for 150 years in Scandinavian and are fully funded by the government for 1-2 years after high school

-there are about 100 folk schools in Norway, and they set their own mandate

-students spend much of there time in the field where they want to learn

-very experiential and practically based

**4. Donna thanked Ron and everyone for coming out.**

**5. Next meeting will be held at the London Public Library location at the Galleria on April 19.**

**6. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.**