

Campus Connection

a newsletter for the Mount Saint Vincent University community

June 1991

Spring Convocation caps academic year

Spring Convocation was marked by glorious sunshine and many proud and happy moments. Degrees, diplomas, and certificates were conferred on nearly 500 graduates, including the first three students to graduate from the Certificate of Proficiency in French.

Also, as the result of recent Senate motions, the first students graduated with bachelor degrees in human ecology, science human ecology, and the integrated human ecology/education program. These were formerly home economics degrees.

Dr. Naomi Hersom, in her convocation report, noted other highlights: Mount links worldwide through scholarships, faculty exchanges and international students; the "double-double graduation" of Beverly Wolfe Hugli and Deanna Romo MacDonald who graduated from the Mount 25 years ago and this spring again graduated together, this time with masters degrees in education; outstanding achievements by many Spring graduates, including Presidential Scholars Anne Dwyer and Canada Scholar Tracy Dunn, and Jane Green, Wallace Robinson, and Margot Curley who all received graduate scholarships; She also interjected a note of sadness in acknowledging the recent passing away of former Mount president Sr. Francis d'Assisi.

In her capacity as vice-chancellor of the university, Dr. Hersom conferred degrees in the absence of chancellor Sr. Louise Bray, who was called away to attend meetings in Rome.



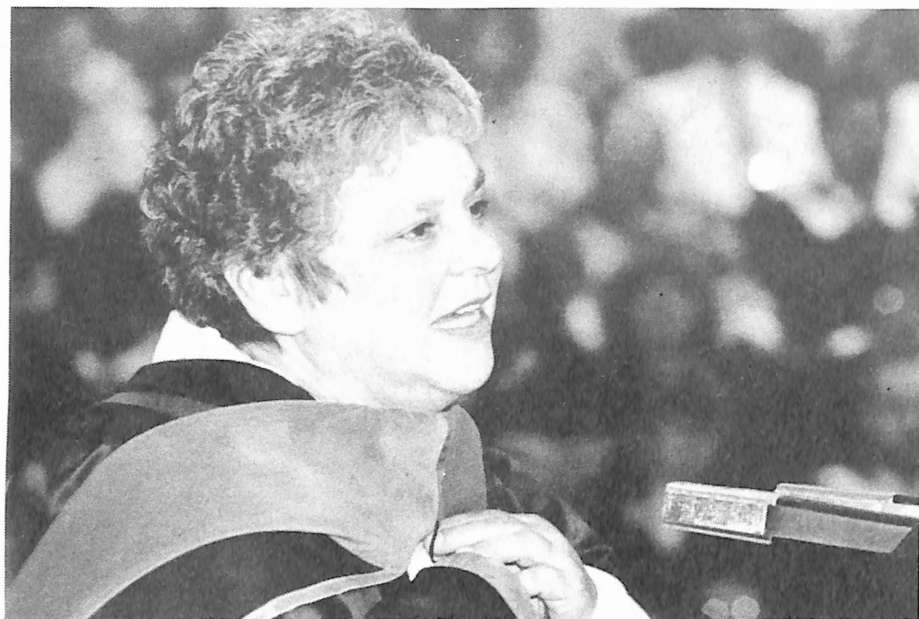
At morning ceremonies graduates received certificates and diplomas in business administration; bachelor degrees in business administration, child study, human ecology, science human ecology, education (including in association with the Nova Scotia Teachers College), arts/education, and human ecology/education; and masters degrees in education, home economics education, and school psychology.

Honorary degrees were conferred in the morning on Black community leader and former Africville resident Ruth Johnson, and on Michele Landsberg, well-known columnist and outspoken advocate for women and children. Art Gallery director Mary Sparling presented Johnson's citation, and Dr. Anna Smol, English department faculty member, presented



From contemplation to elation! There comes a joyful moment in every graduate's Convocation when the truth sinks in: "I've made it!"

Convocation continued on page 2



Honorary degree recipient Michele Landsberg addressed graduates at morning Convocation.



Honorary degree recipient Dr. Berit Ås (centre) poses with president Hersom (left) and former Mount president Dr. E. Margaret Fulton.

Home economics becomes human ecology

Those attending Spring Convocation noticed a new name added to the list of degrees conferred - human ecology.

The university Senate recently approved a change of name for the home economics department and its undergraduate and graduate programs to better reflect the integrative and holistic focus on families.

The name change is part of a larger program review aimed at emphasizing strengths and focusing offerings and resources. Two degree

programs are maintained in the revised undergraduate program: the Bachelor of Human Ecology and Bachelor of Science Human Ecology. In addition, a Bachelor of Education in human ecology is offered in conjunction with the education department. The Mount has been designated by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission to offer human ecology education for the Maritime region.

A masters program in human ecology is also offered.

Convocation continued from page 1

Landsberg's. Landsberg addressed the graduates, focusing on how universities frequently discriminate against women and why women's universities play a key role in fostering academic achievement in female students.

Morning valedictorian was Tracy Taylor of Halifax, who was awarded Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees in the integrated program.

Afternoon graduates were awarded certificates in gerontology and proficiency in French; diplomas in office administration; bachelor degrees in arts, science, office administration, public relations, and tourism and hospitality management; and honours certificates in arts and science.

Norwegian feminist Berit Ås addressed the graduates after she and conductor Agnes Grossman received honorary degrees. Ås, who was a visiting professor in the Mount's women's studies department in 1983 and 1987, offered a hopeful outlook of the world's gradual transformation into a "feminist universe" of understanding and justice.

Afternoon valedictorian was Andrea Lamont McIntyre of Halifax, who received a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in women's studies.

NSERC scholarship winner

Elisabeth Jane Green of Charlottetown, P.E.I., a Spring '91 graduate in the Bachelor of Science Human Ecology degree program, was recently awarded a prestigious 1991 NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) Postgraduate Scholarship. NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships are valued at \$15,000 per year for two years. Thanks to the NSERC scholarship, Green has enrolled in a masters program in nutritional sciences at the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine, where she will be researching the retardant effects of lignin, a dietary fiber, on breast cancer.

Congratulations! Convocation awards

Two Governor-General's Medals were presented at Spring Convocation for highest aggregate in the graduating class. **Patricia Thomas-MacKinnon** of Tantallon, a graduate in the Master of Arts in Education program (Fall '90), was awarded the Gold Medal. The Silver Medal went to **Mary Sheena Williams** of Guysborough, a Bachelor of Science graduate.

Kappa Gamma Pi awards went to **Julianne Coolen** of Dartmouth, Master of Education; **Margo Michelle Curley** of New Annan, P.E.I., Bachelor of Science (Honours); and **Shauna Fenton** of New Glasgow, Bachelor of Child Study.

President's Prizes were awarded to **Joyce Lynn Jones** of Halifax, Bachelor of Science; **Naomi Pearl Martin** of Goose Bay, Labrador, Bachelor of Arts; **Christina Nsaliwa** of Malawi, Bachelor of Human Ecology; and **Betty Anne Williams** of Windsor Junction, Bachelor of Child Study.

Senate Medals of Distinction for students graduating with highest aggregate in the appropriate programs were awarded to **Elizabeth Dawn Beck** of Dartmouth, Bachelor of Public Relations; **Teresa Roberta Boudreau** of Dartmouth, Bachelor of Business Administration; **Andrea Louise Brown** of Wolfville, Bachelor of Education in association with the Nova Scotia Teachers College; **Joanne Elizabeth Duplessis** of Halifax, Bachelor of Human Ecology; **Lynette Griffin** of Riverview, N.B., Bachelor of Office Administration; **Valerie Leonard** of Bedford, Diploma in Business Administration; **Lori Kathleen Parker** of Halifax, Master of Arts in School Psychology; **Wallace A. Robinson** of Antigonish, Bachelor of Arts; **Sophia Anne Slaney** of Kelligrews, Nfld., Master of Arts in Education; **Patricia Whidden** of Middle Musquodoboit, Master of Education; and **Mary Sheena Williams** of Guysborough, Bachelor of Science.



Honorary degree presented to Dr. Ruth Johnson (right) by Dr. Hersom.



Honorary degree recipient Dr. Agnes Grossmann (centre) is flanked by Dr. Marie-Lucie Tarpent (left), modern languages department, and Dr. Hersom.



Welcoming our newest alumnae! Spring Convocation marked the beginning of a new tradition, as members of the alumnae association handed out pins to grads at the end of the ceremony.

Behind the Scenes:

Some of the many, many people whose hard work makes Convocation possible



Registrar Diane Morris does a final check on parchments to make sure all is set to go for the Big Day — just one of the million-and-one tasks undertaken by the registrar's office in preparation for Convocation.

The pageantry of Convocation concludes the academic year each spring, with multi-colored academic gowns, happy grads, inspiring words and stirring music. Less glamorous, but equally important to making Convocation the occasion it is, are the countless tasks performed by a host of people working behind the scenes.

The photos on these two pages is a tribute to all of them!



"A little to the left. Now, just a tad to the right, and down a bit. Hold it right there!" Housekeeper Nancy Hunt and maintenance staff Glenn Landry (in the "genie") and Eric Densmore (on the catwalk) show that teamwork is the key, as they hang the university banner in the Seton Auditorium in preparation for Convocation.



Cathy Haller, senior secretary to the dean of human and professional development and assistant to the Convocation co-ordinator, explains the Seton Auditorium layout and seating to Convocation ushers (left to right) Suzanne Duggar, Cynthia Sturk, Kimberley Brown, Christina Cuthbert and Valerie Creelman.



Baker Jacoba Vannieuwenhuizen, food services, puts the finishing touches on a pan of squares and other sweet treats destined for the Convocation reception table.



Getting the grounds looking their best for Convocation is a big job too. Head gardener Cathy Deveau (left) demonstrates the fine art of shrub pruning to summer grounds crew workers Joan Foster (centre), a Mount Spring '91 grad, and Andrea McQuillan.



Mount chaplain Sr. Lorraine d'Entremont (left) offers some last minute instructions to Baccalaureate Mass readers Heather Ward (centre) and Marie Weeren in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Beginning then, beginning now

by Dr. Naomi Hersom, president



July 8, 1988: Dr. Hersom takes part in an historic moment marking the university's new charter, with (left to right) Sr. Paule Cantin, chair of the Charter Committee; The Honourable Joel Matheson, Minister of Education; board of governors chair Dale Godsoe; and chancellor Sr. Louise Bray.

I vividly remember the moment five years ago when I became convinced that Mount Saint Vincent University is a university with a difference. It occurred while I was sitting in the Seton Academic Centre Auditorium listening to the lively exchange taking place among students, members of the faculty and a distinguished visiting professor from Harvard. The majority of the students were women: confident, articulate, excited by ideas and seeking further understanding with genuine enthusiasm and intellectual keenness. It impressed me at the time because of the ease with which these undergraduate women entered into that discussion, not a common occurrence in my experience where men "naturally" led most discussions in class.

At the close of term this year, my conviction was further strengthened as I sat in the new E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre of a Saturday morning and listened to undergraduate students in the Department of Psychology — again, mostly women — present the findings of the research project which they had completed during the year and discuss them critically with their faculty and peers.

These are just two isolated incidents in the whole catalogue of memories I am carrying with me. But I wanted to share them with you because I think that they exemplify so much of what makes the Mount such an important place for every member of the university community.

In the first place, the people at the Mount are an unusual mix of women and men. Certainly, women are disproportionately represented when we compare ourselves with other universities in Canada. I am sure that the presence of so many concerned and caring people here who support the idea of a university which endeavors to give women fair chances to excel, contributes an unusual quality to the teaching and scholarly activities and the environment for learning and living characteristic of the Mount.

When undergraduate students and faculty members participate in the kind of co-operative learning experiences I have described — the kind of experiences which I was not fortunate enough to have until graduate school — I am reassured that the Mount is carrying out its mandate in the spirit of our founders, the Sisters of Charity. Those women of vision, persistence, and courage in the face of criticism and active opposition at times, established a university which eschews shoddiness, seeks excellence, and manifests responsibility towards those who are affected by injustices and the poverty which is the result of oppression.

In the second place, the Mount has tried to be a place where principles are demonstrated in practice. Living up to one's ideals is difficult for each of us as individuals and it is certainly difficult for us as a university community. But I continue to be impressed

by the efforts being made by people in every part of the university community to introduce policies and practices which are exemplary in terms of eliminating discrimination of all kinds — race, color, gender or religion — in terms of academic programs, employment or athletics.

All that brings me to my third instance of the distinctiveness which characterizes the Mount. While those who founded the university are associated with a religious order, their ecumenism opened opportunities to explore other religious traditions. Today, the legacy left to us in our Charter is a legacy linked to Catholic tradition which ensures that there will be freedom within an academic world of conflicting ideologies and differing beliefs to include faith as a way of knowing, and to respect the knowledge and practice which emerge from Judeo-Christian presuppositions.

My convictions about the worth of all that we do together, which makes this university what it is, have been intensified in the last five years we have shared. As I begin the next stage of my life and as the Mount begins another stage in its history, I am reminded of a bit of dialogue in Madeleine L'Engle's book *A Wrinkle in Time*. At one point in the story she uses the metaphor of a sonnet to explain how humans can choose to shape the future.

"You mean you're comparing our lives to a sonnet? A strict form, but freedom within it?"

"Yes...You're given the form, but you have to write the sonnet yourself. What you say is completely up to you."

While I would not want to stretch this comparison too far, I find it a timely reminder as I think about the future of the Mount as well as my own future. The university is currently engaged in the larger change process ongoing in relation to other universities in Nova Scotia. There are more than a few unknowns ahead, but there always have been forms within which the university must function. In the past, the Mount has found distinctive ways "to write the sonnet" in our own words. I am confident that the Mount will continue to do so. And I look forward to the opportunities I will have to write my sonnet too.

Leadership in a time of transition

*Caroline Halibrun, an American writer, argues, in her book **Writing a Woman's Life** that "those of us (women) who are privileged...must make use of our security, our seniority, to take risks, to make noise, to be courageous, to become unpopular." In her work as an educator, scholar, administrator, community worker and women's*

Society for the Study of Higher Education, vice-chair of the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) Council, and a member of the Advisory Academic Panel of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. While CEA president, Dr. Hersom spearheaded the publication of a monograph on Women in Education and introduced a



Dr. Hersom introduces then Governor General Jeanne Sauvé (right) to student council president Cheryl MacKenzie (far left) and science student Therese Boucher at a reception following Her Excellency's address on women and science in September 1989.

rights activist, Naomi Hersom, in many ways, exemplifies this principle, following her own dictum that "leadership is a call to serve others."

- Dr. Ursula Kelly, Saint Mary's University, in her citation for Dr. Hersom's honorary degree from Saint Mary's in May 1991.

Dr. Naomi Hersom was installed as Mount Saint Vincent University's seventh president and vice-chancellor in October 1986.

A native of Winnipeg, Dr. Hersom began her teaching and administrative career in the elementary schools of Winnipeg. She then went on to join the faculties of education at the universities of Alberta and British Columbia. In 1981 she was appointed dean of the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan, where she expanded technical and vocational teacher education programs and developed distance education.

Dr. Hersom's contributions to the field of education include terms as president of the Canadian Education Association (CEA) and the Canadian

session on women in education at the association's 1991 annual conference. Her work with the AAU included examining sexual harassment policies and procedures.

She has been recognized for her work in education and public service with numerous awards, including YWCA Woman of the Year in Saskatoon, and investiture as Grand Dame of Merit by the Order of the

Knights of Malta. She has received honorary degrees from McGill, York, Saint Mary's, Manitoba, Ottawa, and Victoria universities.

Dr. Hersom came to the Mount at a critical time in its transition, marked by the transfer of ownership of the university, the building of the new communications centre, and the need to revamp the administrative structure and implement more equitable employee policies.

During her five-year term, she provided the university with leadership and foresight, and enhanced its image through her tireless promotion of the institution and its mission. She encouraged key initiatives and oversaw the completion of many developments undertaken during the term of her predecessor, Dr. E. Margaret Fulton.

"I am not comfortable with making claims about achievements which are part of a continuous process of development in a university like ours," comments Dr. Hersom. "So much of what any one of us does is built on the shoulders of those who have gone on before, just as, I hope, people will continue to build on what we are doing now."

Yet, accomplishments and developments during her term surely distinguish the "Hersom years" as a time of significant growth and maturation; a time during which the university has taken major steps toward meeting the educational needs of women in a rapidly-changing world.



Dr. Hersom chats with Dr. Susan Boyd and Nancy Cook, of the chemistry department, following Spring Convocation ceremonies.

Some highlights during Dr. Hersom's term:

- legislation of a new Charter for the university transferring ownership from the Sisters of Charity to the Board of Governors
- completion of the E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre, which incorporates a greatly-expanded library, computer centre, DUET distance education facility, and audio-visual services
- launching of the Learning and Leading capital campaign and ensuring its success; to date it has reached nearly \$7 million of an \$8 million goal
- formation of a faculty union and the development of the first collective agreement
- establishment of changes in conditions of employment, including pay equity; sexual harassment policy and the appointment of an officer; advisory committees on occupational health and safety, the environment, and child care
- completion of The Meadows, designed as both a residence and facility for hosting university functions
- establishment of women's studies, gerontology, political studies, philosophy, and tourism and hospitality management as distinct departments; graduation of the first class from the tourism and hospitality management degree program
- development of international linkages through conferences, and faculty and student exchanges
- establishment of agreement with the Nova Scotia Teachers College regarding the degree program for elementary teachers
- completion of funding for the Nancy Rowell Jackman Chair in Women's Studies
- establishment of the Petro Canada Collection in Women's Studies for the library
- development of 17 percent growth in the funding of scholarships for



Dr. Hersom and physical plant director Paul Reyno give Nancy Rowell Jackman a tour of the E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre under construction.



Dr. Hersom meets with alumnae.

Mount students

- structuring of the women in science initiative, including proposed improvements in facilities for teaching and research in science with the planned renovations to Evaristus Hall
- establishment of proposal for an affiliated program with the Technical University of Nova Scotia for women in engineering
- establishment of agreement with Dalhousie and Nigerian universities for Nigerian link for women faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students
- expansion of the alumnae association and a new student alumnae association
- creation of the MANUS centre for non-traditional students



Dr. Hersom embraces Ruth Baxter (left) and Louise Ardenne after presenting them with the Presidents Prize at Spring '89 Convocation.

The last word . . .

Colleagues and friends of Dr. Hersom offer personal tribute

"In Naomi's own words, 'Leadership is the call to serve others.' This she has done many times over in her past five years at Mount Saint Vincent University. The Mount, with a mission of personalized education for women, was a logical extension of her life as a trailblazer in education and in education for women."

Her contributions to Mount Saint Vincent University have been enormous. Under her leadership the transfer of ownership of the university led to the reorganization of Board roles and responsibilities to better reflect the current needs of our university community. Without Naomi, Learning and Leading would not have happened. Her determination and leadership started and sustained this successful fundraising campaign.

— Dale Godsoe, chair of Board of Governors



Dr. Hersom presents a bouquet of roses to retiring secretary Dorothy West.

"It has been a great pleasure to work with Dr. Hersom during the past five years. She has brought a wealth of experience to the Maritimes from her work nationally and internationally. In addition, as chairperson of the Metro Universities Presidents Committee and a member of the executive committee of the Association of Atlantic Universities she has shown great vision and leadership. Most important, too, is that in all her work she has demonstrated a personal concern for students and for other individuals involved in higher education."

— Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, president of Saint Mary's University

"In the Fulton Centre, Dr. Hersom realized the vision of bringing together in one forward-looking facility the major information and communications services on campus. But she did not leave it at that. She also put the units together administratively to encourage people with very different technical backgrounds and almost from other cultures to begin to work together. This innovative approach has already contributed to the provision of better information services to our faculty and students."

— Dr. Wayne Ingalls, Assistant to the President for Research, Planning and Information Services

"As 1986-87 Student Union president, I worked closely with Dr. Hersom during her first year at the Mount. She was a tremendous role model who taught me that leadership not only involves directing people, but motivating them as well. I admire her strength of character and ability to communicate feminist beliefs without sacrificing femininity. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Naomi. She was and will continue to be one of my most influential mentors."

— Susan Smith, marketing co-ordinator for Barry Mooney & Associates and Mount alumna (BPR '86, CertBus '87)

"Dr. Hersom was assigned the task of giving shape and substance to the

Mount's communications centre. Her dogged pursuit of this goal, despite many varied opinions and suggestions, led to the successful completion of an innovative building. From the start, she consistently worked with an intensity and commitment toward this objective. Throughout, Dr. Hersom has been approachable, appreciative and encouraging."

— Paul Reyno, director of physical plant

"Naomi Hersom believes in the creativity which results from making connections, from forging links. This belief takes concrete form in the link between the E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre and the Seton Academic Centre. Without her vision and her determination to bring these two buildings together, there would be no 'link', no ready access in good times or bad times, nor any easy conviviality which that light-filled, comfortable space engenders. It's a place for the serendipitous, chance encounter. I, for one, will always thank Naomi Hersom."

— Mary Sparling, director of Mount Art Gallery

"Naomi has the rare ability to automatically go beyond the salient features of a situation while determining a course of action. This insight has made her a valuable resource to all with whom she has been involved — students, faculty, other university presidents and members of organizations."

— Dr. Jamie Muir, principal of Nova Scotia Teachers College



At a Host Family reception, Dr. Hersom pauses between squaredancing sets with (left to right) her Host Student Christina Nsaliwa, a home economics student from Malawi; Dr. Hersom's aunt, Margaret Smith; Tony Nsaliwa; and Tayangana Nsaliwa.



Winners all!

Academic award winners and organizers appear jubilant following the 1991 Student Union Alumnae and Athletics Awards Banquet, which was a great success again this year. Congratulations to the following students who received awards at this year's ceremony:

Art Gallery Award - **Trevor Rostek**; Graduating Sociology Student Prize - **Jean Bizeray**; Sara E. Phillips Memorial Prize in Mathematics - **Natalie Worth**; Digital Equipment of Canada Award - **Donald C.R. Lambert**; Merrigan Memorial Education Award - **Melanie Gilroy**; Office Administration Book Prize - **Lynette Griffin**; Swiss Ambassador's Prize in German - **Agnes Yu-Ming Poon**; German Embassy Prize - **Anne Helen Monsigneur**; Swiss Ambassador's Prize in French - **Teri Kervin**; French Embassy Prize - **Noelle Paras**; Spanish Embassy Prize - **Agi Solyom**; The Alliance Francaise Prize - **Julie Roberge and Jenny McLean**; The Danny Weston Memorial Prize in French - **Debbie Bruce**; McGrath-Baird Prize in Gerontology - **Anne Coady-Clarke**; The Bernice L. Chisholm Award in Religious Studies - **Bill Graham**; Air Canada Travel Award - **Celia Mary Sollows**; The Murray-Pottie Award in Journalism - **John Jarvis**; Superior Performance in Introductory Psychology - **Deborah Pico**; Achievement in Honours Psychology - **Margo Curley**; The Ted Osborne Memorial Award - **Teresa Roberta Boudreau**; The Society of Management Accountants of Nova Scotia Award - **Elizabeth Bellefontaine**; The Farmers Co-operative Dairy Limited Prize in Marketing - **Terrine Benham**; Dairy Bureau Nutrition-Dietetic Award - **Tracey Weatherbe**; Laurentian Financial Services Prize - **Deanne MacLeod**; Peat Marwick Stevenson & Kellogg Award - **Lisa Brokken**; Sister Rose Celestine Prize for French - **Ramona Clarke**; Sister Marie Agnes White Award in English - **Nathaniel Dorward**; Sister Francis d'Assisi Prize for History - **Kimberley Ann Gordon and Gerald Rice**; Maud Crouse Robar Award - **Tanya Holt**; Alumnae/Student Union Leadership Award - **Marilyn Suzanne Campbell**

An Open Invitation

The Life Planning and Learning Centre, 65 Albert Road in Dartmouth, marks its 10th anniversary with an open house on Friday, June 14 at 2 p.m. All are welcome to meet the counsellors, and find out how the centre assists women in upgrading their skills and seeking employment.

Since opening, the Life Planning and Learning Centre has provided employment counselling to 5,000 women, more than 3,000 of whom have found employment with the centre's assistance.

The Life Planning and Learning Centre is sponsored by the Mount Saint Vincent University's Centre for Continuing Education and funded by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission's Outreach Program. For more information call 465-1055.

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