

Educational holidays for seniors

Senior citizens will have a choice of educational holidays at ten Atlantic Canada universities this summer, as part of the international Elderhostel program.

Elderhostel is a program for persons at least 60 years old and their spouses. It offers them an opportunity to live in student residences and enrol in a group of low-cost, one-week courses. The courses are taught by regular faculty, require no particular educational background, and are suited to senior citizens who want a combination of travel, intellectual stimulation and new friends.

The program expanded from one Atlantic member university in 1980 to a ten-member Atlantic region in 1981. Last summer, the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick (UNB) hosted 80 senior citizens for courses on the use of archives in preparing a family history, the short stories of Atlantic Canada authors, and managing the north-eastern forest.

The Elderhostel program

The earliest session in the Atlantic provinces this year begins on June 14 at the University Sainte-Anne, a bilingual institution in St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia. Canadian history since Confederation, the historical development of the Acadian people, and the Acadians today will be the course topics for both weeks of this program.

Two weeks of courses will also begin that week at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, the Corner Brook campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Topics will include the history of western Newfoundland, the joy of music, and geography: some aspects of our environment.

The University of New Brunswick will sponsor four one-week sessions beginning June 28, and focusing on themes of family history, Atlantic Canadian literature, and several branches of forest management.

Beginning July 5, courses on the Antigonish co-operative movement, highland music, and the Scots in the new world will be offered at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The session will coincide with the Highland Games in Antigonish.

That same week two weeks of courses on Acadian history, man and his environment, and the philosophy of leisure, will

be offered by the University of Moncton, the only entirely French-language university in Atlantic Canada.

Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia will open its program on July 12, with courses on the natural history of the Bay of Fundy, the ice age in Nova Scotia, and the historic roots of that province.

Two one-week sessions on the history and folklore of Prince Edward Island, astronomy, and the ecology of an island, will begin on July 19 at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown.

The Atlantic Elderhostel will wind up, July 26-August 8, with courses at the three Halifax universities, which expect to set up some combined outings.

Dalhousie will mount courses on the region's roots in immigration and settlement, the provincial flora and fauna, and traditions and recent trends in Canadian fiction and poetry.

Mount Saint Vincent will be the site for courses on the media and society, the golden age of sail in Nova Scotia, and a chemist's views on energy.

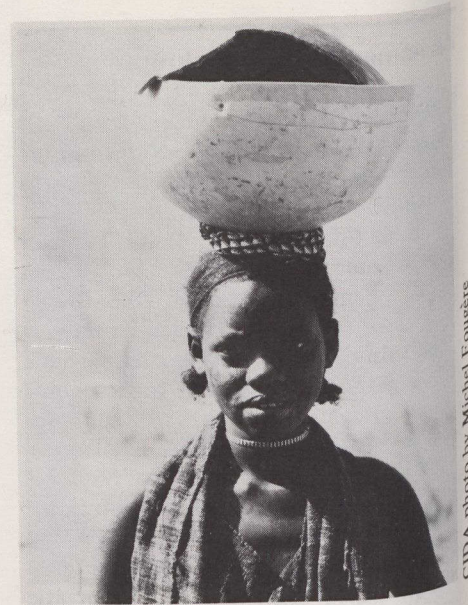
The Halifax programs will also include courses on the Atlantic fisheries, ethnic diversity in Nova Scotia, and the architecture of Halifax, all taught at Saint Mary's University.

More than 1,000 senior citizens are expected to participate in the Atlantic Canada courses. The Elderhostel program is also provided in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, and in the United States, Britain and Sweden. Organizers are planning to set up international exchanges in future years.

CIDA's village focuses on Third World women

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) recently set up a Third World "village" at the Salon de la Femme in Montreal to allow visitors to meet Third World women and Canadians who have worked with them abroad.

The exhibit, entitled "Women, the Third World and CIDA" was organized to help Canadians better understand the problems in developing countries. It included daily events such as craft displays and demonstrations by artisans, typical food preparation, songs and traditional dances. One country from each continent in which CIDA has projects was featured: Peru, Bangladesh, Montserrat and Niger were highlighted.



A woman from Niger.

In addition to general information about these countries, their culture and problems, the exhibit focused on CIDA projects including a skill-training centre in Niger, a rural development project in Bangladesh, a locally-based textile weaving industry on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat and a crafts co-operative in Peru.

Women's initiatives

The exhibit also outlined how women in Latin America, Asia, the Caribbean and Africa are working to improve their lives through their own initiative: women obtain loans for farming tools, organize work gangs to clear land or dig wells, obtain training as health workers, seek advice on family planning, build clinics and organize craft industries.

Film and slide shows were also presented covering some of the 15,000 CIDA-supported initiatives by Canadian voluntary organizations working in the Third World, including the Conseil des coopératives du Québec, MATCH, the Mennonite Central Committee and the Canadian Hunger Foundation.

In addition to its support to non-governmental organizations, CIDA administers hundreds of projects ranging from rural co-operatives in Peru to locally-based textile weaving industries on the Caribbean Island of Montserrat. International development banks such as the African Development Bank and international bodies such as UNICEF and the World Health Organization are also supported financially by CIDA.