



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Lakehead University's Office of Community Programs facilitates community-oriented ancillary programs enabling lifelong learning. These programs strengthen community relations through developing multi-faceted partnerships with various organizations and expanding innovative educational opportunities for learners in non-degree programs both on and off campus.

The following is a summary of the "top five" Community Programs currently operating on campus. Several other initiatives are ongoing or in development. There are numerous ways in which faculty members can become involved in these programs.

Humanities 101/201

Humanities 101 is a community-based outreach program designed to ensure that community members with a love of learning have access to a university educational experience despite financial or others barriers. The one semester non-credit course covers various disciplines taught by volunteer professors from a range of subject areas. Assistance is provided for students to overcome financial barriers to participating in the Humanities 101 program, including access to school supplies, class materials, meals, bus or other transportation, and child or adult care. The Humanities 101 program is now in its sixth year, and we've had over 100 students graduate from this program.

Building on Humanities 101, Humanities 201 allows for graduates of Humanities 101 to continue their lifelong learning journey and remain connected to a supportive community as alumni of a Lakehead University ancillary program. Again, faculty members volunteer to teach in this program.

Programming involves two one-off events per semester, and includes the assistance outlined for participants in Humanities 101. In the recent past, we have had events addressing food security, health, and indigenous cultures.

Ontario Master Naturalists Program

The Ontario Master Naturalist Program (OMNP) is a community program established by Lakehead University Orillia in partnership with Ontario Nature. It is coordinated by Bob Bowles, an avid community leader. The first of its kind in Canada, the OMNP provides those interested in nature and environmental stewardship the opportunity to receive a Master Naturalist certificate.

The inaugural program took place in the spring of 2015 and we have now had three full classes of participants complete this eight-module spring program and receive their Master Naturalist certificates, and we have a waiting list of over 200 people interested in the program.



In addition to this ancillary certificate program, we have offered four fall one-off sessions to augment the program (mushrooms, lichens and mosses, indigenous medicinal plants, and waterfowl migration), as well as two winter workshops. Each workshop attracts 20-30 participants and programs are generally at capacity.

This past summer, we offered a week-long program on campus in Thunder Bay. Several Lakehead faculty members taught in this program, while others participated as students.

Leadership Programs: Not-for-profit Leadership Program and OPP Training

The YMCA Not-For-Profit Leadership Development Program, in partnership with Lakehead University and funded by a Trillium Grant, is a unique, multi-leveled leadership experience that enables participants to grow personally and professionally, while connecting them with other not-for-profit leaders within the community.

Participants attend three three-day workshops as they move through three levels of programming. Drawing on leading-edge research and experienced panel and keynote speakers, this program integrates conceptual knowledge, individual experiences and hands-on-support to guide participants in their impact on the not-for-profit sector. Over a hundred participants have taken levels one and two and we have recently graduated our first cohort with Level three certification. Many Lakehead faculty and staff have participated in this program, and Frank Cappadocia is one of its core founders and teachers.

We also offer modular leadership programming to the OPP. This ongoing programming is an essential component to leadership development within this organization.

“In Conversation” lecture series

In this series of monthly lectures, professors from Lakehead present on their current research in an accessible public forum. This program is going very well and numbers are strong. This series not only provides an opportunity for faculty to share research; it also enables them to learn more about the work of their colleagues. Consider attending a lecture this year!

“The Garden Zone”

Lakehead has four gardens located on the Orillia campus: the Four Directions garden, the Three Sisters Garden, the Community Gardens, and the Butterfly Garden. The Four Directions garden mirrors the colours and philosophies of the Medicine Wheel, and includes many indigenous plants with both medicinal and other traditional uses. The Three Sisters Garden includes corn, beans, and squash.

The Community Gardens has a series of plots (in partnership with the City of Orillia) available to faculty, students and community members seeking to garden on campus.



The Butterfly garden has been planted with specific plants designed to attract and support Monarch and other butterflies.

Faculty members are encouraged to join the gardening community on Wednesdays throughout the year. If you're interested in an allotment in particular, please contact the Office of Community Programs.

The Office of Community Programs is always looking for faculty support and involvement in community-based initiatives. We are part of the Sunshine Initiative (citizen-led sustainable health and wellness committee), the Orillia Food Council, and the Mariposa Folk Festival. If you're looking to get involved in your community, we can connect you with the right people!

We also support faculty initiatives that share our philosophies about community engagement and lifelong learning, including Hands-on Science and Ecoreach, and we are also organizing a Youth Mental Health Forum in October, 2017. We also partner with the Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP) on various initiatives.

We also offer many individual learning experiences that might be of interest. Look for Molecular Mixology this fall! If you have any ideas about the ways in which your work might inspire lifelong learning in our communities, please get in touch with Linda Rodenburg. She's always willing to consider how the Office of Community Programs can expand our academic communities within Simcoe County and beyond.

Contact Us

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