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# Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | Resource Offer

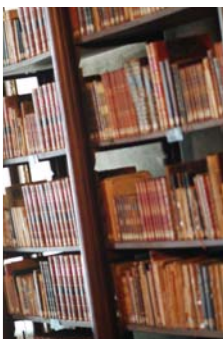
PLEASE SHARE *CHALK TALK* WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

**Welcome Back!** Ah yes, as the song goes, *Summertime and the Livin' is Easy*. I wonder if any of you are feeling the way I am — what's the word? **Exhausted** — yes, that's it. The rushing to and fro in the heat and traffic; the endless out-of-town baseball tournaments, entertaining family and friends, and the hard work of having fun. Me? I'm looking forward to the autumnal slowdown.

The cooler weather brings with it easier sleeping, pleasant nature walks and time to resume your favourite hobbies. This summer I decided to turn our 'guest' room into a home library. I have a



passion for collecting books and vintage magazines — a passion that had cluttered every nook, cranny, closet and flat surface. The library will soon house my collections in an organized fashion so that I can find my beloved classics, histories and biographies, as well as my fine art, travel and antiques texts and glossy picture books. I can't wait to

curl up in an overstuffed chair listening to my favourite music and enjoying evenings lost within those pages.

The hobbies we pursue are truly an expression of who we are and what we are interested in. I didn't know that I was a collector until I realized how many books I had accumulated and how difficult it was for me to get rid of any of them. Each book represents to me an opportunity to enter another world, to learn about other times and live other lives. Collecting is an activity that can be done alone or shared in groups. I'm hoping that now that I am organized I will be able to enjoy my library with others who share my passion.

Stamp collecting has evolved from the world's oldest hobby to its most popular. Stamps are not only valuable, but they are beautiful works of art, commemorating significant people, places and events. This week's **Chalk Talk** provides information and useful links on the educational aspects of stamps and stamp collecting. You will also find out how you can receive a copy of the September 07 issue of **The Source for Free Teaching Resources**.

## OCTOBER IS STAMP MONTH!



Each year, Canada Post celebrates October Stamp Collecting Month by issuing a variety of stamps that can help students learn more about their world. To mark Stamp Month 2007, Canada Post is issuing the **2<sup>nd</sup> issue** in their **Endangered Species series**, featuring images of at-risk Canadian creatures that live in or around the water. Educators are invited to download a copy of this year's Stamp Collecting Month classroom kit. **[See details below]**



[Stamp Month](#) is an important part of Canada Post's commitment to promote reading and letter-writing skills, as well as an understanding of the workings of the postal system among children and teens. Canada Post has developed an array of fascinating [lesson guides and fun activities](#) suitable for classroom use. During the school year, several new lesson guides or copier-ready student activity sheets are posted and can be downloaded, copied, and shared.

Stamp Clubs are a popular extra-curricular activity in Canadian Schools and provide an entertaining way to learn and teach almost any subject. For information



on how to start a stamp club at school, check out [Postal Planet](#). For teenaged students

interested in learning more about stamps and stamp collecting, Canada Post offers a ["Step by Step Collecting Guide"](#). Junior grade students will enjoy the activities and games available through [Stamp Quest](#).

[Source: Canada Post]

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

As always, your feedback is important to us.

[Let us know your thoughts.](#)



Mary Kovack

### philately (n.)

"stamp-collecting," 1865, coined by Fr. stamp collector Georges Herpin (in *"Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste,"* Nov. 15, 1864), from Gk. *phil-* "loving" + *ateleia* "exemption from tax," the closest word he could find in ancient Gk. to the concept of "postage stamp" (from *a-* "without" + *telos* "tax"). A reminder of the original function of postage stamps, now often forgotten: the cost of letter-carrying formerly was paid by the recipient; stamps indicated it had been pre-paid by the sender, thus the letters were "carriage-free."

## STAMP COLLECTING MONTH PACK — FREE EDUCATORS' KIT



Canada Post's Stamp Month Teachers' Kit Poster

Canada Post's [2007 Stamp Collecting Month Pack](#) will help teachers across Canada put a stamp on learning. This is your guide to the world's most popular hobby!

This year's classroom resource contains ideas on using stamps as part of planned curriculum around a variety of educational themes — history, art, geography, language and the environment. Educators can **download** a poster and information for the preparation of lesson plans related to stamp collecting. In addition, you will find additional downloadable activity sheets and reference material at [www.postalplanet.ca](http://www.postalplanet.ca).

The Pack includes:

- Cover Sheet & *Discover Canada Through Stamps* Poster featuring a photo of a Beluga whale at the Vancouver Aquarium along with some of Canada Post's most popular stamp issues.
- Information on how to use the resource.
- Stamp Collecting 101 provides a guide to stamp collecting to help teachers incorporate stamp collecting into a lesson plan.
- 10 Activities Sheets will be available for download on **Postal Planet**.
- Resource List indicating where teachers/students can find more information on the kit, stamps and stamp collecting.

[Source: Canada Post]

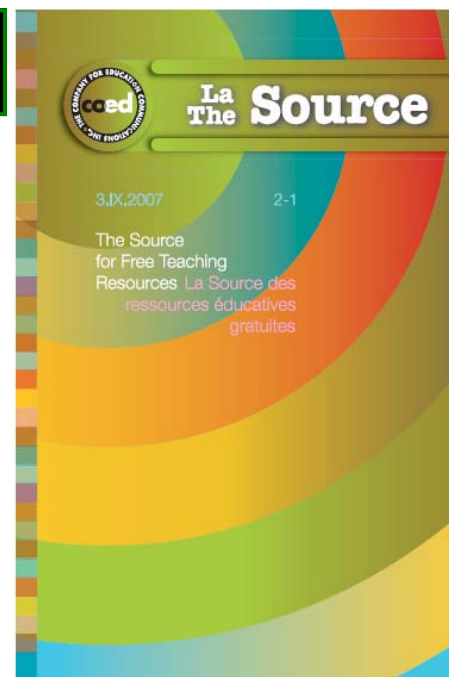
## Now Available — *THE SOURCE FOR FREE TEACHING RESOURCES*

Free copies of the September, 2007 issue of *The Source for Free Teaching Resources* are currently being distributed to schools across Canada. This semi-annual, bilingual, printed reference guide to free, quality, curriculum-based resources for Canadian educators is produced by CoEd Communications, the same people who bring you *Chalk Talk* every week. We hope that this handy guide will



make it easier for busy and dedicated educators to identify and order free supplemental classroom resources to assist in the preparation of lesson plans.

A limited number of extra printed copies of *The Source* are now available to *Chalk Talk* subscribers. To order your own copy and to receive future issues, simply go to our easy-to-use website, [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca), and click on *The Source*, then **Free Subscription**, or email us at [info@4edu.ca](mailto:info@4edu.ca). Our website also features a downloadable version of *The Source*.



## Education News & Related Articles

"My uncle died and left me his stamp collection..." What to do when you inherit stamps — Bob Ingraham.

"My uncle died and left me his stamp collection..." What to do when you inherit stamps — Bob Inghram, President, [British Columbia Philatelic Society](#)

"To a stamp collector, inheriting a relative's stamp collection is almost like winning the lottery. But a non-collector who inherits a stamp collection has a dilemma: he or she has heard that stamps may be valuable, but hasn't a clue how to find out the value of their new collection, much less how to turn it into cash. This article is intended to help sort out the confusion."

[Newcomers get school primer; A new tip sheet explains the ins and outs of Canada's education system to immigrant parents](#) — Kristin Rushowy, Education Reporter, *TheStar.com*, August 23, 2007

"It may look like kindergarten students spend a lot of time playing, but rest assured, they are learning. And yes, you are allowed to volunteer in your child's classroom. These and other scenarios are among the topics that may puzzle newcomer parents encountering an unfamiliar education system, so advocacy group People for Education has created a "starting school" tip sheet for them. The sheet – available in 12 languages – is one of a growing number of initiatives helping families be better prepared for school in a new country."

[Ancient DNA shows Greenland had forests; Ice core in study may hold oldest gene traces](#) — Randolph Schmid, ASSOCIATED PRESS, *TheStar.com*, July 6, 2007

"Ice-covered Greenland really was green a half-million or so years ago, covered with forests in a climate much like that of Sweden and eastern Canada today, a new study says. An international team of researchers recovered ancient DNA from the bottom of an ice core that indicates the presence of pine, yew and alder trees as well as a variety of insects. The researchers, led by Eske Willerslev of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, say the findings are the first direct proof that there was forest in southern Greenland."

[Middle-class students caught in tuition crunch; Many are too poor to pay for post-secondary education but too rich to meet criteria for government loans](#) — Louise Brown, Education Reporter, *TheStar.com*, August 2, 2007

"Too rich to qualify for full student loans but too poor to pay the tab themselves, Canada's middle-class students are being squeezed into troubling debt and daunting work schedules to cover the cost of higher learning, a new study shows."

[The skilled trades are 'kicking butt'; Technical careers promise good money and a strong demand](#) — Jennifer Brown, Special to The Star, August 16, 2007

"Dylan Mitchell could well be the poster boy for apprenticeship programs in Canada. This spring, Mitchell moved from Richmond Hill to North Vancouver to launch his career, using skills he learned in a two-year tool and die program, and to take advantage of the British Columbia lifestyle. Wages for trades vary across the country, depending on the demand in each province. In Alberta and B.C., wages are considerably higher, says Allison Rougeau, executive director of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum in Ottawa. And, she points out, studies show apprentices have lower debt, better job prospects and higher earnings than other post-secondary grads two years after finishing school. "Trades are kicking butt," agrees Mitchell. "If you work hard at finding the right position for yourself and apply yourself, you'll go far."

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

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