

Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

“I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.” — Albert Einstein, Physicist

My favourite teachers shared some common qualities — intelligence, humour, fairness, enthusiasm and the ability to make a subject relevant to my life. Mr. Cole’s grade 9 *Ancient History* class inspired me to travel to the Egyptian Pyramids, Athen’s Acropolis and Rome’s Colosseum. Decades later, when I visited these sites, I was surprised by how many of the details I could recall. Mr. Cole had shared hundreds of slides taken on his annual summer treks to participate in archeological digs that fed his desire for deeper knowledge and understanding. He told his stories with such passion. Ancient times were brought to life, populated with real, living, breathing people who had worked, played, loved, laughed — just like us! He was a ‘keener’. For him, vocation and avocation had merged into his life’s endeavour.

This week’s issue features 25 educators who are adept at bringing history to life and making it relevant. I hope you will enjoy reading about them.

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 www.4edu.ca to view other free teachers’ resources on offer. [Your thoughts are welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

Website of the week

Canada’s National History Society’s website is home to a variety of history-based [educational resources](#), [outreach programs](#), activities and contests for all ages. In addition to administering the Governor General’s Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History, the CNHS offers classroom ready lesson plans and web resources. [Lesson plans](#) can be sourced by grade level, by themes and by eras. Download articles from current and past issues of the CNHS’s publications — [The Beaver](#), Canada’s History Magazine and [Kayak](#), the history magazine for kids.



Excellence in Teaching History

Now in its 12th year, Canada’s National History Society has announced the recipients of the **2007 Governor General’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History**.

This year’s winning educators created life-changing lesson plans that encouraged their students to serve as judge and jury for a monumental trial, travel back in time to explore their favourite historical figures, relive miles of memories with John Diefenbaker, solve a black super hero deficit, hum and strum their way through historical folksongs, and unravel archives from military mysteries.

In an official presentation at Rideau Hall, the Governor General’s Residence, to be held on November 2, 2007, the six winners, selected from among 25 finalists, will be awarded \$2,500 and a gold medal. Their respective schools also benefit with a \$1,000 cash award. The Awards prizes are provided by TD Bank Financial Group.

The Awards recipients will also visit Parliament Hill, take a private tour of historic Rideau Hall, and attend a private luncheon with Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean. The winners and their guests will also be treated to a gala dinner, and a rare insiders’ tour of the Library and Archives Canada Preservation Centre, one of the program partners. For complete details, click [here](#). [\[Source: Canada’s National History Society\]](#)



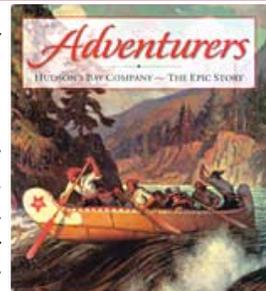
GGWinners



TEACHERS — Don’t miss this **FREE** Educational Resource Opportunity!!!

Adventurers - Hudson's Bay Company - The Epic Story — by Christopher Moore

Multiple copies of Hudson Bay Company’s hallmark publication, **Adventurers**, are available free to teachers for their students. Commissioned by **Hbc** specifically for students, this lavishly illustrated book by noted Canadian historian, Christopher Moore, provides a single-volume overview of Hudson's Bay Company's history from fur trade to retail. Maps, diagrams, paintings and photographs bring the stories to life while sidebars provide in-depth features on topics such as beaver hats, pemmican, York boats and Inuit sculpture. Also available in French. [Order copies](#), or read a copy [online](#).



2007 — GG Award Winners



Rhonda Draper
Glenmore Elementary
Kelowna, BC

In Rhonda's unit plan, "Canada: On the Wings of Our Song", folk songs written from the perspectives of "workers, cowboys, campers and political leaders", grade 3 & 6 students learn about the history and purpose of music.



Rose Fine-Meyer
Humberside Collegiate
Institute, Toronto, ON

Rose created a senior level high-school Interdisciplinary Studies course entitled "Archives and Local History" which has received Ontario curriculum accreditation. Students' work contributes to the local military archive collection.



Susan Haynes
Havergal College
Toronto, ON

The "Passport to the Past" project invites grade 7 students to research and role-play historical figures for presentation on Heritage Day, to enhance a trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village, and as part of a War of 1812 project.



John MacPhail
St. Dominic Catholic
Elem., Oakville, ON

Students in grades 10-12 class participate in a mock trial of William Lyon Mackenzie and study the Rebellions of 1837 from a modern perspective. Students develop skills in critical thought, debate and questioning of assumptions.



Monique Martin
George Vanier Catholic
School, Saskatoon, SK

The "Stops with History" project involved 58 grade 7/8 students in creating 22 large posters detailing an historical event, place or person in Saskatoon History that were displayed on a city bus and transit shelters.



David Watkins
Weston Collegiate
Institute, Toronto, ON

In his Canadian-African studies course, students analyze what it means to be *Black* in Canada. Projects include the creation of a comic strip and writing essays on the Slave Trade, culminating in a Youth Diaspora Conference.

2007 — GG Finalists



Louise Busseau
École Primaire, St-
François-Xavier,
Rivière-du-Loup, QC

Adapting to latest technologies, the "Travelling Through Time" project encourages students to study Canadian history from 1745 to 1905 and contribute to a cooperative classroom website.



**Emmanuelle Coache, Ariane Larocque,
Anne Gagné**
École St-Joseph, Lacolle, QC

Supervised by parents and teachers, students in grades 2&3 participated in an "Historical Rally" — a 3-part activity which included a presentation of their local history and archival photos, an historical walk to identify the location of buildings including an on-site quiz, and the creation of a photo album to compare the current building role/appearance with the archival photos.



Brad Dowler
Springs Christian Academy
Winnipeg, MB

Students from grades 9-12 participate in "Youth Parliament", a two-day activity set-up like a provincial legislature and focuses on reasoned debate and discussion. Includes forming committees, drafting bills, and learning "Bourinot's Rules of Order" governing procedures.



Sherri Dugan and Thelma Gregan
Berwick & District School
Berwick, NS

"A Journey Through Time" combines an elementary DPA running program with their social studies class. Over the course of the unit, students run a total of 1,800 km — equal to the circumference of Nova Scotia. Students convert laps into kms and chart the distance on a map. Their journey leads them to learn about fifteen historical and cultural sites throughout the province. Each grade provides students with different facts, literature and in-class activities that are age-appropriate.



Joanne Espinel
J.A. Laird Elementary
Invermere, BC

This unit examines the history of immigration during the 1800s to current day, participate in an "intergenerational community service project"; research specific immigrant groups; organize a Multicultural evening; interview new Canadians at Citizenship Ceremony.



France Gendron
Ecole Primaire Carrousel
Ste-Brigitte-des-Saults,
QC

The unit includes 15 study and research stages on the life and culture of the First Nations prior to arrival of Europeans. The students are divided into three tribes representing the Iroquoian, Algonquian and Incan cultures.



Nancy Hamer-Strahl
Port Perry Highschool
Port Perry, ON

Students study Canada's involvement in WW I and II while making personal connections with veterans. Each student adopted and researched a specific soldier, created a memorial piece and produced a unique, personal tribute.



Peter Katsionis
Sir Winston Churchill HS
Vancouver, BC

Grades 10&12 Law and Social Science classes judge the actions of Louis Riel based on Canada's new anti-terrorism bill C-36. Students recreate the trial of Riel asking whether today we see Riel as a terrorist or a freedom-fighter.



Lycia Kougemitros & Jennifer Miyauchi
Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School
Markham, ON

In their *Bilingual Authentic Bootcamp* unit, this teaching team offers an engaging simulation of Army Recruitment during WWI as a window into Canada's past. This unit which simulates the life of a soldier involves students participation in becoming a "Military Expert" and in creating a "Soldiers' Backpack". Consequently, students have the opportunity to appreciate and understand the lives of soldiers of the past and those in current world conflicts.



James Kostuchuk
Portage Collegiate Inst.
Portage La Prairie, MB

"War Monument Research" is a project designed to involve his students in activities based in historical investigation and research by involving them in investigating a twentieth century casualty of war from Canada's past.



Kevin McRae
Iroquois Falls Secondary
Iroquois Falls, ON

"My Canadian Identity" encourages students to explore Canada's history and their own identities. Grade 12 students of *Canada: History, Identity and Culture* spell out the letters of their names using Canadian symbols, people and events.



Ann Owens & Paul Walsh
Miss Edgar's & Miss Cramp's
School, Montreal, QC

History and Geography programs are integrated to create a Heritage module where student teams investigate the effects of the Industrial Revolution on the development of Montreal's communities.



Lisa Pagliacci
Iqra Islamic School
Surrey, BC

"Spotlight on Pacific Northwest Coast Peoples" helps students to understand Canada's First Nations Peoples before, during, and following European contact. Students decorate hallways in a "Canadian History Mosaic" motif.



Andrew Rychel
W.H. Morden P.S.
Oakville, ON

In "The Nation Expands" gr. 8 student groups produce 40 min. presentations on 1 of 8 topics on Canadian western settlement, inc. The NW Mounted Police, The Red River/ Northwest Rebellions, The CP Railway, and Immigrant Movement.



Gilbert Salmon
Polyvalente de Thetford Mines
Thetford Mines, QC

This teacher's "trademark" **classroom-museum** is used to develop his students' historical investigation skills through critical study of the large number of objects and exhibits in the collection.



Cathleen Anne Tenning
Victoria High School
Victoria, BC

Of First Nation origin, Ms. Tenning has developed the unit, "Residential Schools: Understanding the Aboriginal Experience Through Story," which uses film, personal accounts and a novel study, to teach an understanding of past and current aboriginal issues.



Linda Urban and George Urban
Louie Norwegian School
Jean Marie River, NT

This team teaches 14 students from K-9 in a one room school in the Northwest Territories. "Remember When... a Cultural Study of the Dene" is based on a study of the students' ancestors. An elder takes the students on a field trip down the MacKenzie River. They stop at various checkpoints to hear local stories and complete activities. This helps the students make connections to the land and historical figures. Students also explore the snowmobile of Louie Norwegian, the namesake of their school.



Sarah Wood
Chignecto-Central Adult
H.S., New Glasgow, NS

The "WWI Letters Project" unit begins with a thorough study of Canada's role at Vimy Ridge with students participating in a letter writing simulation, set within the historical context of Vimy Ridge and The Halifax Explosion.



Gayle Walker and Toby Daigle
Bairdmore Elementary / Rexton Elementary Schools
Winnipeg MB / Rexton, NB

Working in partnership, using Whiteboard technology and online video conferencing, their grade 5 students research and create presentations that are shared electronically. In the unit "Canada's First Peoples", both classes studied and created presentations on the historical influence of the French within their region of Canada. The students also completed a presentation for the other classroom entitled: "Welcome to Our Communities" and learned about the uses of SMART Notebook technology for communication.

Education News

[Has Ontario taught its high-school students not to think? Elementary and high schools spend so much time on the content-laden curriculum that students are unprepared for the analytic and conceptual thinking they'll need at university](#) — Alan Slavin, [Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Trent University], *Opinion, University Affairs*, October 2007

"There is growing evidence that the combination of standardized testing with a content-intensive curriculum that's too advanced – has done exactly that."

[Homeless kids neglected; Report says educational, emotional support lacking for students living in shelters](#) — Laurie Monsebraaten, Staff Reporter, *TheStar.com*, Oct. 1, 2007

"Every year about 3,000 school children in Toronto live in homeless shelters, says a new study to be released today. Yet despite this long-standing problem – the number of affected children has remained steady for the last five years –there are no government or school board policies to ensure the educational and emotional needs of these vulnerable children are being met, says *Lost in the Shuffle*, the first Canadian study on the issue."

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