



# Chalk Talk

Greetings

Feature

News

Essay Contest

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers:

Did you know that prior to 1947 people living in Canada were considered British subjects? 2007 is the 60th anniversary of the passing of [The Canadian Citizenship Act](#). All across Canada this [Citizenship Week](#), Canadians are celebrating with a variety of ceremonies, media events and heritage contests. As is traditional thousands of people, in small and large ceremonies, have become Canadian citizens. These ceremonies are sure to be filled with emotion, smiles and more than a few tears. This is a good time for all citizens to reflect on what it means to be a Canadian.



When I was a very young girl I was derided for having pierced ears and wearing gold-hooped earrings. These days, I think many of the

Canadian-born people around me are more Italian than I am. They know the cooking and customs of Italy better than I do. Like many Canadians I've grown up enjoying the best of both worlds but I want be clear, I am first and foremost, a CANADIAN!

According to a [recent survey](#) conducted by Ipsos-Reid on behalf of [The Dominion Institute](#), 60% (6 in 10) Canadians failed a mock citizenship exam similar to the one taken to become a Canadian citizen. The same survey showed that 70% of first generation Immigrants passed the simple quiz. It is much easier for long-time Canadians to take for granted the benefits and entitlements of citizenship, whereas, for 'new' Canadians it is often connected to strong memories and infused with profound meaning. Canada has changed their lives and the course of their family histories. In turn, these new Canadians make an important and significant impact on Canada. We see this impact on our neighbourhoods, the food we eat, the music and art we enjoy and the general expansion of our knowledge of the traditions and cultures around the world.

This week's issue of **Chalk Talk** has information about an exciting essay contest that asks students to write about people who have made an impact on Canadian society in 2007.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to support-

## ESSAY CONTEST— DEADLINE NOV. 1, 2007!

**A**ttention all teachers, students, school principals and librarians — Don't miss the opportunity to enter A&E's 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST' [formerly 'Biography'® of the Year Essay Contest]. **Students can win cash prizes and audio-visual equipment for themselves and their schools.**

Students in grades 5-12 are invited to enter [A&E Canadian Classroom's](#) 'Lives That Make A Difference' essay contest by writing and submitting an **original essay in 300 words or less on who they think made the greatest impact on Canadian society in 2007**. Each entry must include the student's name, complete address, postal code, telephone number, age, grade, name of teacher, school, school address, and local cable system (if known). Send entries to: LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST, c/o Temple Scott Associates, 250 The Esplanade, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J2.



**Don't delay!** This contest is sure to spark lively discussion as students and teachers take a critical look at their world and the Canadians who are catalysts for change. Start the conversation today to ensure that your won't miss out on a chance to win prizes for themselves, their school and their classroom! **The contest closes November 1, 2007. Entries must be received no later than November 10, 2007.** [Click here](#) for full contest information.

Two winners from each grade level — 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade — will be selected.

### 5th-8th Grade level

**GRAND PRIZE (1):** Student: \$5,000 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn.) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn.)

**FIRST PRIZE (1):** Student: \$2,500 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn.) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn.)

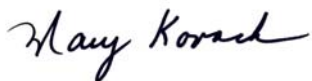
### 9th-12th Grade level

**GRAND PRIZE (1):** Student: \$5,000 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn.)

COEdu 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.

[Your thoughts are appreciated.](#)



Mary Kovack

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn.) for use in the classroom.
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[Note: Due to Provincial restrictions the contest is void in Quebec.]  
[\[Source: A&E Canada website\]](#)

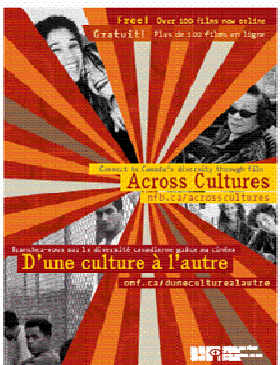
## Website of the week



Check out the NFB's [Across Cultures](#), an innovative website which provides an excellent introduction to multiculturalism and the issue of cultural diversity in Canada. Educators can view entire films or excerpts highlighting specific teaching points.

Offered free of charge, the site is tailored to the needs of secondary level classrooms, contextualizing films with a wealth of supplementary material — teacher guides, a glossary of useful terms, articles and essays, and interviews with noted filmmakers.

To read more about the films offered on the [Across Cultures](#) website as well as NFB's many other learning resources, [click here](#).



## The Canadian Citizen Act, 1947

In 1945, Paul Martin Sr., a federal cabinet minister, visits a military cemetery in Dieppe, France, where as he walks among the wooden crosses he notes the variety of nationalities represented by Canadian soldiers. Martin Sr. decides to champion the cause of a Canadian citizenship act. The timing is right—Canada is in a post-war economic boom and has a new self-awareness from participating in the Second World War.

The Canadian Citizenship Act comes into force on January 1, 1947. Up until then, Canadian nationals were considered to be British citizens under the law. By passing this groundbreaking legislation, Canada becomes the first Commonwealth

**“Nothing has since epitomized the concept of our nation more poignantly for me than that cemetery. Of whatever origin, these men were all Canadians.” — Paul Martin Sr., Federal Cabinet Minister, Dieppe, 1945**

country to have its own citizenship category separate from Great Britain. A historic and emotional ceremony is held on January 3 in the Supreme Court of Canada chambers, where 26 people are presented with Canadian citizenship certificates. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King is honoured with the first citizenship certificate. Another recipient is Yousuf Karsh, the Armenian-born photographer.

[\[Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada\]](#)

## A&E's 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST' — 2006 Winners

Be Inspired by the Winning Essays from the 2006 Essay Contest!

**Grand Prize, Grade 5-8**

[Emma Gibbons](#) — Age 13, Grade 8, Fisher Park Public School, Ottawa, ON — who wrote eloquently about Heather Crowe, the Ottawa waitress who suffered from the effects of second-hand smoking and played a key role in the development of Smoke-Free Ontario Act before her death in 2006.

**First Prize, Grade 5-8**

[Emma Seckel](#) — Age 11, Grade 6, Queen Mary Elementary School, Vancouver, BC — whose essay about anti-war activist Deborah Ellis echoed the passion of this mental health counselor/author's five books dealing with the effects of war and AIDS on children around the world.

**Grand Prize, Grade 9-12**

[James Barron](#) — Age 17, Grade 11, W.P. Wagner School of Science and Technology, Edmonton, AB — whose essay recognized the contribution made by Justice John H. Gomery in 2005 in exposing the corruption in what came to be known as “The Sponsorship Scandal”.

**First Prize, Grade 9-12**

[Tara McMillan](#) — Age 16, Grade 11, Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School, Courtenay, BC wrote about radio icon and humourist, Stuart McLean, whose weekly CBC program, *The Vinyl Café*, celebrates all things Canadian.



[CBC Celebrates Citizenship Week and 60 Years of Canadian Citizenship! October 15 - 21, 2007](#) —  
CBC.ca

During Citizenship Week, CBC is hosting a number of Citizenship Ceremonies. On October 19th, 270 new Canadians will be receiving their Canadian citizenship in a special ceremony being held at CBC in Toronto. CBC Manitoba will also host a citizenship ceremony in Winnipeg for 60 new citizens on October 18, 2007, in partnership with the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. We celebrate Canadian Citizenship Week each year during the third week of October. This celebration is an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of Canada, recognize the value of our citizenship and to welcome new Canadians into our communities.

Approximately 262,000 people became Canadians in 2005. Citizenship is much more than being recognized as "Canadian" at international borders. Canadian citizenship also means the principles of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms are part of our the day-to-day interaction with each other; it involves adhering to citizenship values, such as equality, respect for cultural differences, freedom, peace, law and order. Citizenship Week is a time for us to think about the role we each play in building a Canadian society that is more inclusive, democratic and caring.

[National Me to We Day -- Can young people living in Canada really do much to combat child poverty around the world? The answer is yes, and thousands of students will gather in Toronto tomorrow to discover how during National Me to We Day.](#) – The Toronto Star, Special Section, TheStar.com, October 18, 2007

**This Special section includes:**

[Small voices echo across the globe](#)

Inspired by a 12-year-old activist slain in Pakistan, Craig Kielburger and his brother Marc have created a worldwide network of youth helping youth.

[We need compassion without borders](#)

Tomorrow, a packed stadium of students, social justice leaders, media and educators from across the GTA and beyond will converge at Ricoh Coliseum to stand together, celebrating a new way of thinking that will transform the world: a change from living "me" to living "we."

[Teachers see little acts, big changes](#)

Grade 7 teacher David Thwait's knows he's done his job well when other teachers at Kensal Park Public School in London, Ont. don't recognize students once they join his Me to We in Action club.

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