



Chalk Talk

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

We have a saying that everyone should have two cities in their heart, their own and Québec City. — The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, July, 2007

I first visited Quebec City in high school during its annual winter **Carnaval** when it is truly an ice and snow wonderland. I've never been so cold but who knew you could have so much fun in minus 20 degrees?



We sometimes forget that although Canada is a young country, our historical roots go way back.

Imagine that in 1608, the year Quebec was founded by Samuel de Champlain, a 44-year old Shakespeare had just finished writing *King Lear*.

Walk in any direction and you'll find significant history on both a grand and small scale. Whether there for business or pleasure, I always take time to descend the long wooden staircase that connects the Chateau Frontenac to the Quartier Petit-Champlain, and to walk the now tranquil expanse of the Plains of Abraham. I also seek out the spot where a tree has grown around an abandoned cannonball.

The unique history, physical beauty, and variety of architecture, inside the old city walls, have made it one of only two districts in Canada, the other being 'Old Town' Lunenburg, to be recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

This week's **Chalk Talk** offers lesson plans about the history of Quebec City and the 250th anniversary of Canada's parliamentary democracy. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the work of teachers by providing access to free classroom resources. Visit us at www.4edu.ca.

Your thoughts are welcome.

Mary Kovack

2008 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History — Apply Today!



Canada's National History Society is pleased to announce a call for nominations for the 14th **Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History**. History and Social Studies educators are urged to submit their unique teaching approaches to the program. **The deadline for submissions is April 28, 2008.**

The Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History were established in 1996 by the **History Society**. Every year, the awards recognize teachers from elementary and secondary schools who have inspired and challenged students about Canadian history.

In an official presentation at La Citadelle in Quebec City, recipients will be awarded \$2,500 and a gold medal. Their respective schools will also benefit with a \$1,000 cash award. The Awards recipients will also visit historic sites in Quebec City and attend a private luncheon with Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean.

For complete details and application form:

Rules

<http://www.historysociety.ca/gga.asp?subsection=ru>

Form

<http://www.historysociety.ca/gga.asp?subsection=nom>

Information

prixggawards@historysociety.ca

or call 1-800-861-1008

[Source: History Society online]



Happy Birthday Quebec City!
To mark Quebec's 400th anniversary, the History Society has commissioned



a spectacular illustration and timeline of *Champlain's Habitation*. The poster (pictured, right) has been mailed to Canadian schools as an invitation to be involved in the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching History. Educators can download aligned lesson plans at historysociety.ca/edu.asp and collectionscanada.gc.ca/explorers.



Website of the week

The Democracy 250 initiative has been established to commemorate and celebrate the important milestone of 250 years of **parliamentary democracy** in Canada. 2008 marks the 250th anniversary of representative government in Nova Scotia – the first elected assembly of its kind in what is now Canada – giving this important event a national dimension.



On October 2, 1758, the Nova Scotia House of Assembly met for the first time in a modest wooden building at the corner of Argyle and Buckingham streets in Halifax. It was an assembly of twenty-two men, some who came from as far away as New England to deliberate as a parliament on questions affecting the land in which they lived.

As the birth place of parliamentary democracy, as well as the birthplace of freedom of the press and responsible government in our country, Nova Scotia's pioneering role in shaping our nation's democratic institutions has helped secure the rights and freedoms Canadians today embrace. Educators are encouraged to involve their students in the celebration! **Lesson plans** can be downloaded at www.democracy250.ca/pages/Learning-Resources.aspx.

[Source: The Democracy 250 Initiative]

RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Scholarships Deadline May 11, 2008!



The RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Scholarships program invites students graduating from high school in any stream and poised to enter post-secondary education in any field to apply for the opportunity to receive one of 10 scholarships each valued at \$2,008.

The Scholarships are designed to recognize the achievements of 10 graduating senior students from different regions of Canada to help them pursue their chosen field of study. Eligible students require a minimum grade average of 65 per cent and acceptance into a Canadian college or university (and/or CEGEP in Quebec) for full time study in the 2008 Fall/Winter session.

The scholarships recognize hard work, innovation and solid career direction. For information on last year's winners, [click here](#). Application forms for the 2008 Scholarships program are now available at www.rbcroyalbank.com/lifeskills. Apply Today!

Deadline is May 11, 2008!



Education News & Related Articles

[History's future depends on how we present the past](#) — Deborah Morrison, President, Canada's National History Society, [article originally appeared in February/March 2008 issue of *The Beaver*]

"Over the past several months, considerable attention has been drawn to what Canadians remember about their history and how it is remembered — in our museums, through our educational system, and more broadly throughout our communities. Readers will recall the flurry of media attention around the Dominion Institute's 2007 Remembrance Day Survey that concluded little progress had been made to improve the sorry state of historical knowledge among Canadians. Most of the blame went to today's teachers and provincial curricula. The solution, according to Rudyard Griffiths, co-founder of the institute, was for greater federal involvement in the formation of a national history curriculum, and a mandatory history test for every graduating student. Interestingly enough, a week earlier, Canada's National History Society, in partnership with TD Bank Financial Group and Carleton University, hosted the first-ever **National Forum on Canadian History**, attended by the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, (left, photo by Serge Gouin) as part of the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History events."



[Royal assent given to rights museum legislation](#) — Mia Rabson, Winnipeg Free Press, *nationalpost.com*, March 13, 2008.

"There were times she thought it was never going to happen, but Gail Asper was all smiles Thursday as she watched the dream of her late father take on new life. Legislation creating the Canadian Museum for Human Rights as a national entity received royal assent in Parliament, one of the final steps needed before shovels can hit the ground...The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, to be built at The Forks -- the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine rivers in downtown Winnipeg -- will be the first national museum to be built outside of the capital region and is the first new national museum in 40 years."

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