

# Chalk Talk

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

My friends and family would say that I am a person who likes to walk. I love the mildly hypnotic rhythmic pace of walking and the way it can both distract you from thinking about your problems and draw your attention to people and places you normally pass without a glance. Before becoming a mother, it was not unusual for me to decide on the spur of the moment to walk part or all of the 7 or so kilometers from work to home — sometimes in heels!



Corniglia, Cinque Terre

Therefore, it came as no surprise to my husband and son that on our recent trip to Italy, I wanted to attempt the 7-hour trek that links the five remote villages that comprise **Cinque Terre**, a UNESCO world heritage site.

Carved into the side of the cliffs that rise from the Gulf of Poets, the journey is distinguished by its varied topography, sweeping heights, breathtakingly beautiful views, hidden beaches and neat-rowed vineyards that cling precariously to cascading rock walls. Along the way I struck up a number of short conversations with people of all ages from all over the world. One young Australian fellow stands out in my mind. He had started his travels on foot in Scotland, worked his way through England, crossed the English Channel by ferry, continued down the length of France and then into Italy where our unlikely paths crossed. When I asked about his remarkable journey, he simply said, "You can't *really* know a place until you've walked it."

This week's **Chalk Talk** features information on resources to help you plan a school trip that will bring your students up close and personal with our nation's capital, a wonderful place to tour on foot.

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

[Let us know your thoughts.](#)

*Mary Kovack*

Mary Kovack

## A Class Trip to a World Class Capital



Spring has finally arrived and with it planning for year end school trips is on the minds of educators and students across Canada. There can be no more ideal class outing than to visit Canada's Capital Region.

Ottawa, Canada's Capital, is more than a city; it is an expression of the country in general and a gathering place for its citizens. Canada's Capital Region belongs to all Canadians. Even more importantly, it represents us as the seat of government, a place of national symbols. It is Canada's face to the world and provides a cultural showcase for our diverse talents.



[The National Capital Commission](#) (NCC), a Crown corporation created by Parliament, is dedicated to making the Capital accessible to all Canadians. The NCC endeavours to support learning in young Canadians about the richness of Canada's Capital, through various activities and resources.

The NCC's new downloadable pre-visit kit **Get Ready for the Capital** is the perfect tool to excite students about an upcoming visit to Canada's Capital Region. The kit holds four self-contained activities, including a **Scavenger Hunt**, that are designed to prepare students for what they'll see and do in Canada's Capital. To view this kit, [click here](#). For more information on a free guided **Walking Tour** and other programs for school groups, see the **Website of the Week** feature below.



## Canada's Capital offers World Class history, culture, beauty, attractions and most of all FUN for students of all ages!



Ottawa's museums, public institutions, parklands, markets and natural beauty are the perfect place to make great class trip memories. Where else can students experience a 19th century Canadian village, sit in the gallery of the House of Commons, take a photo next to a dozen three-story high totem poles, be surrounded by First and Second World War military planes, feast on deliciously sweet Beaver Tails and see more tulips than anywhere else in Canada — all in one day? Ottawa has truly got it all! For more information — [www.canadascapital.gc.ca](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca).



### The Making of the Capital — Walking Tour

The NCC's **free** guided walking tour, *The Making of the Capital*, offers an easy-paced, interactive guided tour, which tells the story of how the Nation's Capital has evolved from a rough-and-tumble town into a very special and sophisticated region. Beginning at the centrally located Capital Infocentre (across from Parliament Hill), an enthusiastic guide leads student groups on a 90-minute or 60-minute learning adventure that includes Parliament Hill, goes down to the Rideau Canal, past the National War Memorial and back to the Infocentre via the hustle and bustle of historic Sparks Street. The 90-minute tour features a visit to the Bytown Museum, where your group is greeted by a costumed guide who will help you discover the stories behind the engineering marvel of the Rideau Canal.

Both the 60-minute and the 90-minute tour interpret the numerous landmarks, sites and symbols that showcase Canadian history and achievements, and provide a fun and enriching walking experience through the streetscapes, sights and sounds of the Capital. Visit [www.canadascapital.gc.ca/education](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/education) or call 1 800 461-8020 for more information and booking.



In addition, the NCC offers *A Gathering Place: An Exploration of Canada's Capital*, a teaching resource (pictured, left) for use in grades 5 to 8 Social Science and History, which provides comprehensive information on Canadian culture, identity and symbols; Government, citizenship and democracy; Canadian stories, heroes and celebrations; and Canada's connection to the world. To download this resource, [click here](#).

[Source: NCC online]

## 'Remember November 2008' Youth Programs in Canada's Capital Region

Remembrance Day in the Capital offers young people dramatic insight into some of the most moving moments of our collective history.

REMEMBER NOVEMBER — 2008

Plan a School Tour for the Season of Meaning and Memory in Canada's Capital

Remembrance Day in Canada's Capital, on November 11, offers young people dramatic insight into some of the most moving moments of our collective history. In fact, the whole of November is a time of exceptional opportunities for schools to participate in meaningful programming.

New for 2008! Something for everyone... Many national institutions — including the Canadian War Museum, Parliament of Canada, and many more — have special Remembrance programming for students. To make things even more exciting and educational in the Capital, we are collecting special proposals for school groups throughout the month of November.

For more information, visit the website today:  
[canadascapital.gc.ca/remember2008](http://canadascapital.gc.ca/remember2008)

Remembrance Day in the Capital is an especially meaningful time for Canadians and one that offers exceptional opportunities for student visitors. The National Capital Commission (NCC) and Ottawa Tourism work with the Canadian Legion, the Canadian War Museum, Parliament of Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada, Beechwood Cemetery (National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces) and Conference/Aide Tours to offer a dynamic programming package for educational groups on Remembrance Day Weekend. To download the Remembrance Day brochure, (class poster, left), [click here](#).

On Tuesday, November 11, students are guests of honour at the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the **National War Memorial**, where they will watch the solemn proceedings from a special, roped-off area. Following the ceremony, students will enjoy a guided tour of the Capital, with featured stops at the **Peacekeeping Monument** and **Beechwood Cemetery**. For more information on how to book your student tour, or to receive the pdf file of the flyer, contact [reservat@ncc-ccn.ca](mailto:reservat@ncc-ccn.ca) or call 1-613-239-5100 or 1-800-461-8020.

In addition there are tours available at Parliament Hill including the Memorial Chamber, dedicated to the memory of Canadians who

have died in military service and The Peace Tower, built in the 1920's to honour the fallen soldiers of the First World War. *Bookings:* [www.parl.gc.ca/vis](http://www.parl.gc.ca/vis).

The **Canadian War Museum** commemorations take place throughout **Remembrance Day Weekend** from November 8-11. The War Museum offers a special Guided Remembrance Tour which brings into focus the human experience of Canada's military history. Student groups receive an orientation conducted by a host dressed in period costume and are greeted by Canadian Forces Veterans who will be available to answer questions about their military experiences. Book in advance at 1-819-776-7014 or 1-800-555-5621.



[Source: [NCC online](#)]

## Education News & Related Articles

[Anger spurred winning bio of Sir John A.](#) – Vit Wagner, Publishing Reporter, *TheStar.com*, March 4, 2008

“Esteemed Toronto Star columnist Richard Gwyn is a past master at bringing prominent Canadian political figures to life on the page, having previously penned biographies of Pierre Trudeau and Joey Smallwood. But essaying the story of this country's first prime minister presented a different challenge. "You can't get as close personally," said Gwyn, after winning the \$25,000 Charles Taylor Prize for literary non-fiction yesterday at a gala luncheon at the King Edward Hotel for John A: The Man Who Made Us, the first in a projected two-volume biography of founding father John A. Macdonald. ... "The truth is that a lot of our history is written in a very dull way," said Gwyn, who expects to publish the concluding volume in the spring of 2010. "One of the things that motivated me was that I was angry that there had been no Macdonald biography for over half a century, which would not happen in any other country that I can imagine. I wanted to give Canadians a chance to rediscover their own history.”

[THE BIG SWITCH — Earth Hour — An Earth Hour primer; Earth Hour approaches, but just in case you still don't know what all the fuss is about, the Star would like to present you with Earth Hour 101](#) – Emily Mathieu, *The Star.com*, March 27, 2008

“On Saturday, between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., people around the world will turn off the lights in their homes and businesses to conserve power and draw attention to climate change. Earth Hour started in Sydney, Australia. On March 31, 2007, more than 2 million people and approximately 2,100 businesses turned off their lights for 60 minutes. Their environmental statement garnered international attention and prompted the launching of the worldwide event. Toronto was the first North American city to pledge support for Earth Hour 2008. Since then, dozens of cities have joined, including Vancouver, Montreal, Manila, Copenhagen, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Bangkok.”

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