



Chalk Talk

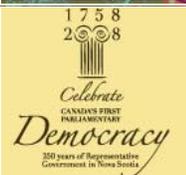
Greetings | Feature | News | Making History

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

From East to West in 2008, Canadians are celebrating significant historical milestones while they prepare to participate in that most democratic of activities — casting their vote in the October 14 federal election.



Social Studies, History and Civics classes must be abuzz with discussion about the recent 400th anniversary on July 3 of the founding of Quebec City, the upcoming commemorations of the 250th year of Parliamentary Democracy on October 2nd in Nova Scotia, and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia on November 19.

In a record-breaking number of schools —almost 4,000 across Canada, students will be participating in **Student Vote**, an initiative now in its fifth year, which promotes and encourages young

people to become interested in provincial and federal elections and the political process. Registered schools involve their students by conducting a **mock** election complete with signs, debates, and ballots. Students research the issues and vie for the opportunity to represent political parties. Without a doubt education, health care and national defense will be important topics for debate, but, as reflected by polling voting-age Canadians, the dominant issues may relate to Energy, the Environment and the Economy.



Stamps are issued every year that chronicle Canada's past, as well as, the people, places and events that are of interest to Canadians today. This week's **Chalk Talk** provides information and useful links on the educational aspects of stamps and stamp collecting. Also, find out how you can receive a free copy of the 52-page Autumn issue of **The Source for Free Teaching Resources**.

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

[Let us know your thoughts.](#)

OCTOBER IS STAMP MONTH!



Each October, Canada Post celebrates Stamp Collecting Month by issuing a variety of stamps that can help students learn more about their world. To mark Stamp Month 2008, Canada Post introduces the **3rd and final issue** in their **Endangered Species series**, featuring four at-risk Canadian creatures: the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, roseate tern, burrowing owl and prothonotary warbler. (*below*)



Stamp Month is an important part of Canada Post's commitment to promote literacy through improving 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, which 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]



EDUCATORS/STUDENTS: FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM CANADA POST!

Make stamps and collecting even more interesting by [subscribing to Canada Post's free publications](#).

Mary Kovack

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").

Collections is a tri-annual magazine featuring all the latest news in stamp issues.

Details is a philatelist's dream - a quarterly magazine that brings you the background stories and design techniques on new stamp releases, full-colour illustrations, product descriptions, late-breaking news, technical innovations in stamp design. [To learn more.](#)



STAMP COLLECTING MONTH — FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



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

Available on the [Postal Planet](#) website, classroom presentations contain ideas on using stamps as part of planned curriculum around a variety of educational themes — history, art, geography, language and the environment. Each themed resource contains a **downloadable** poster and information for the preparation of lesson plans/activity sheets related to stamp collecting. Educators are invited to check out the following Stamp Month classroom presentations:

- [Discover Canada Through Stamps](#) (top left) offers a [poster](#) featuring a Beluga whale from the Vancouver Aquarium along with some of Canada Post's most popular stamp issues commemorating Superman, Canadian astronauts, Scouting and Winnie-the-Pooh.
- Take your class on an exciting journey of discovery with [Go Wild, Collect Stamps](#) (bottom left) offering a [poster](#) which features a variety of stamp issues from sunbathing snakes and North America's smallest wild dogs to wetlands and biospheres, books and movies, popular sports and intriguing stories about distant countries

[Stamp Collecting 101](#) provides an introduction to stamp collecting to help teachers incorporate stamp collecting into a lesson plan.

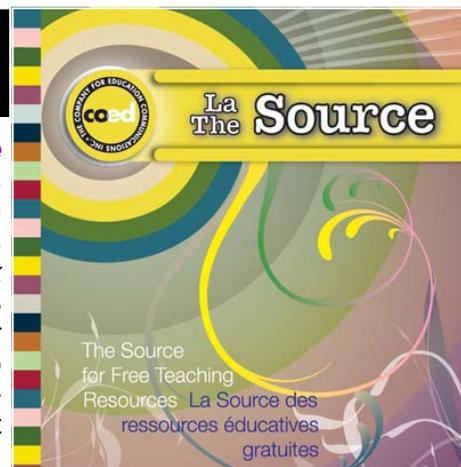
[Source: www.postalplanet.ca]

Philately speaking — Did you know ... ?

- Stamp collecting has evolved from the world's oldest hobby to its most popular
- The original function of postage stamps, now often forgotten, is that 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"
- Of the more than 5,000 people who participated in this year's Canadian Stamp News Poll, over 27% are members of a stamp club
- Most collectors prefer to collect stamps by country (59.2%) with 21.7% by topic and only 7.4% by specialty
- Of the 2007 stamp issues, collectors believed the most relevant stamps to be the 150th Anniversary of Ottawa, Canadian Recording Artists, and Endangered Species
- Canada's first Braille stamp, *The Guide Dog*, was issued this year

Now Available — THE SOURCE FOR FREE TEACHING RESOURCES

Free copies of the September, 2008 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, 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** readers. To order your own copy and to receive future issues, simply go to our easy-to-use website, www.4edu.ca, and click on *The Source*, then **Free Subscription**, or email us at info@coedcomm.com. Our website also features a downloadable version of *The Source*.



Election Classroom Resources and Statistics

[Willing to participate: Political engagement of young adults](#) — *Canadian Social Trends*, Winter 2005, no. 79, Statistics Canada

“Young adults are often viewed as uninterested in political activity. This article outlines the extent of political engagement among young adults in their 20s, as measured by traditional (voting) and alternative (non-voting) political participation. It then examines some of the links between young adults' selected characteristics and their political behaviours such as voting, signing petitions, boycotting certain products, attending public meetings or participating in demonstrations.”

[Young Voters](#) -- Resources for Teachers, Elections Canada

“As teachers, you will often be called upon to **explain Canada's electoral system** to your students. The links below will help you find materials to make the job a little easier. For younger students, **from kindergarten through Grade 4**, try the [Choosing Our Mascot](#) election simulation!

The [School Elections Officer Guide](#) gives step-by-step **instructions** for student council elections and it's adaptable for **Grades 5 to 12**. The [Election Simulation](#) helps you organize your own election simulation in your classroom and it's adaptable for **Grades 5 to 12**. You'll find useful [election supplies](#) like tally sheets, sample ballot papers, and more.”

[Federal elections](#) – Learning Resources, Statistics Canada

“Through the ballot box, Canadians get a chance to directly express their opinion about how their country should be run. At the federal level, Canadians elect members of Parliament to the House of Commons to represent each electoral district.

- Read more about [federal elections](#) (source: Canada Year Book 2006, Government overview).
- See [Elections by the numbers](#) for facts related to elections in Canada and to our nation's economic relationship with the United States.

Did you know? The population numbers collected in each decennial Canadian census (for example in 2001 and 2011) are used to establish the boundaries of federal electoral districts (FEDs) and the number of seats in parliament.”



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📞 416.955.9526
📞 416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • www.coedcomm.com • info@coedcomm.com