



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | History Awards

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators:

“History is who we are and why we are the way we are. No harm’s done to history by making it something someone would want to read.”

— David C. McCullough, Pulitzer-Prize Winning Historian

Breathing life into historical events requires creativity. I recently watched a fascinating [Independent Lens](#) documentary entitled, ‘CHICAGO 10’, on PBS, which combined archival footage with original animation to tell the story of the trial of the protesting anti-war activists who clashed with police and were arrested at the Democratic Convention

in Chicago in 1968. Accused of conspiracy and inciting to riot, [Yippie](#) leaders Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, *Black Panther* Bobby Seale and pacifists Tom Hayden and David

Dellinger participated in a courtroom drama that spotlighted the 60’s counterculture revolution.

Experiencing history as it happens is very different than trying to understand it 40 years later. The passage of time provides perspective and context; the events become both more nuanced and more startlingly bold. This week’s issue features 25 educators who bring history to life. 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 the many free teachers’ resources on offer. [Your thoughts are welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

Excellence in Teaching History

Now in its 13th year, Canada’s National History Society has announced the recipients of the **2008 Governor General’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.**



This year’s award-winning teaching strategies include a two-year long effort to organize a 5100 kilometre pilgrimage from Quebec to the WWII Battlefields of France; the creation of memorial pieces and personal tributes to Hong Kong and WWII veterans; a comprehensive historical documentary produced by ten-year olds; aboriginal sharing circles to enable students to share personal reflections about the past; a re-staging of the 1927 Diamond Jubilee celebration of Confederation; and a classroom size “history table” that encourages kids to get their hands dirty reliving settlement in Canada during the early 1800s.

On Monday, November 17, 2008, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, will present the Awards at Rideau Hall. Award festivities also include a special dinner and rare insiders’ tour of the Library and Archives Canada Preservation Centre, one of the program partners.

The six recipients will be awarded \$2,500, a gold medal and a trip for two to the presentation ceremonies at Rideau Hall. Their respective schools will also benefit from a cash gift of \$1,000.

All finalists are shown **below**. Detailed biographical information and submission descriptions for each of the finalists can be downloaded from the History Society’s website: [click here](#).



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 History Society 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 Society’s publications — [The Beaver](#), Canada’s History Magazine and [Kayak](#), the history magazine for kids.



“Most of us get our first introduction to history through our classroom teachers and it is estimated that the average teacher will touch the lives of at least 6,000 students throughout his or her career.

Good history teaching matters.

An investment here ensures that the next generation of Canadians will have a stronger, more passionate connection to the past, and greater understanding of how history informs the present.”

— Deborah Morrison, CEO and President of Canada’s National History Society
[Media Release, November 14, 2008]

2008 Recipients of the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History



Jean-Pierre Frigon
Ecole Secondaire
Paul Le-Jeune
Saint-Tite, QC

To better understand the role of their region and Canada in the Allied war effort against the Nazis, Jean-Pierre developed an interactive unit, "The Roads to Freedom", in which his secondary 5 students participated in an international exchange between Quebec and France, created an historic calendar and visited historic sites.



Nancy Hamer Strahl
Port Perry High School
Port Perry, ON

In Nancy's history unit, students explored Canada's role in the two world wars. Their findings from the paramilitary camp known as "Camp X" and the creation of time capsules for the 60th Anniversary of Juno Beach and the Battle of Hong Kong became books. They also honoured local veterans with the creation of the Memorial Plaque Project.



Bev Milobar-den Ouden
Colchester School
Sherwood Park, AB

Bev's grade 5 students explore their community's historical relevance in the Colchester area of Strathcona County of Alberta by researching, producing and starring in an hour-long documentary which included interviews with seniors, studying local archival documents and films and visiting historical sites.



Joe Stafford
St. Theresa Catholic
Secondary School
Belleville, ON

Joe has encouraged his grade 10 students to re-enact the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation under the government of Mackenzie King. Students dressed in 20's garb, prepared visual displays and staged vaudeville acts to highlight Canada's accomplishments up to the year 1927.



Anne Tenning
Victoria High School
Victoria, BC

Anne, a member of the Chamainus First Nation, strives to pass on her people's proud history as founding fore-fathers of Vancouver Island to her Grade 12 students by having them hear first-hand from Elders and conducting "talking circles", part of her "Walking on the Lands of our Ancestors" unit.



Mike Ward
Palsson Elementary
School
Lake Cowichan, BC

Mike's grades 4 and 5 students build their own replica 1800's Pioneer Village on a 4' by 8' dirt-covered table, complete with a blacksmith and carpenter shop, a rustic General Store, log houses and one-room school house. The class uses role-play to relive Upper Canada's rural life and struggles.

2008 — GG Finalists



Nicole Aucoin
Horizon Alternative
Senior School
Toronto, ON



Isabelle Bergeron and Sylvain Christin
Collège Bourget
Rigaud, QC



Rick Delainey
Lutheran Collegiate
Bible Institute
Outlook, SK



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



Joanne Espinel
J.A. Laird Elementary
School
Invermere, BC



Owen Ferguson
Redcliff Middle School
Truro, NS



Bruce M. Honsinger
Applewood Public
School
St. Catharines, ON



Curtis Kleisinger
Michel A. Riffel High
School
Regina, SK



James Kostuchuk
Portage Collegiate
Institute
Portage La Prairie, MB



Clint Lovell
Eastview Secondary
School
Barrie, ON



Scott Masters
Crestwood Preparatory
College
Toronto, ON



Jean Pelletier
École de l'Alizé
Lévis, QC



Chantal Pelosse
Collège International
Marie de France
Montreal, QC



Neil Robinson
Westmount Charter
School
Calgary, AB



Andrew Rychel
W.H. Morden Public
School
Oakville, ON



Gilbert Salmon
Polyvalente de
Thetford Mines
Thetford Mines, QC



Ron Sweet
Calgary Science
School
Calgary, AB



Allan Mark Trueman
James M. Hill Memorial
High School
Miramichi, NB



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

**Congratulations to all of the
2008 Finalists!**

Educators: Check out this FREE Resource — FUR TRADE STORIES



[Fur Trade Stories](#) is a unique presentation of primary and secondary resources found in the collections of Canada's National History Society, HBCA - Archives of Manitoba, The Manitoba Museum, Parks Canada and several First Nations communities.

To begin the journey through the thoughts and hearts of the brave people who explored and survived our wilds, you are invited to explore all or any of the three periods — from pre-contact

with the Europeans [coming soon] to the arrival of the Europeans to the 'New World' through to present day.

To find out more about this interesting classroom resource which comes with Teaching Tips on how to apply the resource to various curricula, [click here](#).

[Source: Canada's National History Society Website]

Pre-Contact with
Europeans to 1600

From 1600
to 1867

From 1867 to
Present Day

Education News



[Historians Receive National Honours for Encouraging Students to Solve Canada's Cold Cases](#) — Media Release, CNHS, November 13, 2008

Canada's National History Society today announced that a team of Canadian historians trying to solve some of history's greatest 'cold cases' have been awarded this year's Pierre Berton Award. Their unique and innovative historical sleuthing abilities have encouraged Canadian students to overcome some interesting challenges. [Read more ...](#)

[Internet generation smarter, quicker, more tolerant, author says](#) — Angela Pacienza, ParentCentral.ca, TheStar.com, November 05, 2008

"Today's youth are plugged into the world in more ways than one, according to the author of a new book that explores the so-called Internet generation. Don Tapscott says those weaned on the Internet – people born roughly between 1977 and 1997 – are more politically savvy, socially engaged and family-centred than society gives them credit for. "They are a generation with really strong values of integrity," he said of the group, the members of which are between about 11 and 30 years of age. With the eldest of this group making their way in the workforce and marketplace, Tapscott says it's essential that politicians, CEOs, educators and marketers understand how "Net gen-ers," as he calls them, think, act and feel because "they're an unprecedented force of change." To that end, the Toronto-based consultant has written "Grown Up Digital: How the Net Generation Is Changing Your World" (McGraw-Hill). Based on interviews with more than 10,000 young people in 12 countries including Canada and the U.S. done by his nGenera Innovation think tank, the book shows how technology has infiltrated their lives, and how it shapes their decision-making. He estimates the Internet generation is 81 million people strong in the U.S., or 27 per cent of the country's population. That's nearly double the size of generation X."

To be added to this mailing list, please opt in by clicking [here](#)

To be removed from this mailing list, please opt out by clicking [here](#)

We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

T 416.955.9526
F 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